

NEWS IN BRIEF

"CAN'T DEFEND THEMSELVES": FATHER OF AI-171 PILOT APPROACHES SUPREME COURT

Diary Times Desk : Four months after the AI-171 plane crash in Ahmedabad left 260 people dead, the father of the pilot, the late Captain Sumeet Sabharwal, has approached the Supreme Court, seeking a judicially monitored probe into the crash.

While 88-year-old Pushkaraj Sabharwal is the first petitioner in the matter, the Federation of Indian Pilots is the second. The petitioners contend that the preliminary investigation into the crash is "profoundly flawed". The probe team, they say, is predominantly focusing on the pilots, who can no longer defend themselves.

This comes after a preliminary report by the Aircraft Accidents Investigation Board suggested that human error had led to the tragedy.

"INDIA'S PROXY WAR": KHAWAJA ASIF'S BIZARRE CLAIM ON PAK-AFGHAN CLASHES

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan, the nation with a proven track record of sponsoring terrorism on its soil, has accused Afghanistan's Taliban government of "fighting a proxy war" on behalf of India. Casting doubts over the recently brokered 48-hour ceasefire between Islamabad and Kabul, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has accused India of "sponsoring" the moves of the Afghan Taliban, even as India has maintained a stringent policy against terrorism over the years. Speaking to Geo News, Asif said, "I have my doubts that the ceasefire will hold, because the decisions of the [Afghan] Taliban are being sponsored by Delhi."

"Right now, Kabul is fighting a proxy war for Delhi," he alleged. He further hinted that the Taliban's Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, had made some ulterior "plans" during his recent six-day visit to India, even though Muttaqi's Delhi visit was officially centred on trade and bilateral relations.

A 48-hour ceasefire between Afghanistan and Pakistan took hold late on Wednesday, after dozens of troops and civilians were killed.

VIKASHEEL INSAAN PARTY (VIP)

BIHAR OPPOSITION DODGES BULLET AS KEY ALLY AGREES TO SETTLE FOR 15 SEATS



Diary Times Desk : Mukesh Sahni's Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) has agreed to contest in 15 seats in the Bihar assembly election, ending the suspense over the coalition's final shape just weeks before voting begins. Sahni said his party had been promised one Rajya Sabha and two MLC seats as part of the deal to remain with the Mahagathbandhan.

Sahni thanked CPI(ML) leader Dipanka Bhattacharya for the breakthrough in negotiations. The VIP leader also wrote to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, after which Gandhi spoke to leaders of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

The exact details of the seat-sharing arrangement is likely to be released soon, sources said. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has already filed nomination from the party's stronghold, Raghapur constituency.

Sahni, 44, is a key figure in the vibrant tapestry of Bihar's political landscape where caste and community often intertwine to shape electoral fortunes. He earlier sought at least 24 seats - which indicated not just a negotiation for power, but a deeper quest for recognition and representation of the fishermen and boatmen communities in Bihar. While seat-sharing talks were going on, speculation was high that the VIP leader would exit the Mahagathbandhan if things did not work out the way he wanted. The latest announcement has put a full stop on this buzz.

Once heralded as a rising star, Sahni was dismissed by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar from the Bihar cabinet in 2022 when he was the animal husbandry and fisheries minister. The reason cited was his constant attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Sahni seems to have limited options today: either remain as a unit of the Mahagathbandhan, or contest alone with some other smaller grouping and most likely end up in political oblivion.

With the Sahni trouble behind, the Mahagathbandhan is set for the big contest. Apart from the BJP, the Opposition alliance also faces Prashant Kishor's new outfit, Jan Suraj Party. Prashant Kishor himself is not contesting the election.

IN OBC QUOTA ROW, SUPREME COURT SETBACK FOR REVANTH REDDY'S GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Thursday afternoon knocked back a Telangana government plea challenging the High Court's interim stay on expanded reservations - past the 50 per cent cap set by the top court in its landmark 1992 Indra Sawhney judgment - for Other Backward Classes, or OBC, communities.

The state argued that increasing quotas - granting 42 per cent reservation for OBCs for local body elections, which meant overall quotas would be 67 per cent - is 'a policy decision.

"... a unanimous resolution of all parties supports this policy. How can it be stayed without pleadings? Barring the first few pages (of the High Court order), no reasons have been given for the stay," senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's government, said.

"Who are these people (i.e., the High Court) to stay without even pleading... when it was passed unanimously by the legislature," he told Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta.

On the contention the quotas will cross the 50 per cent cap, Singhvi said 'there is a misconception that the Indra Sawhney case established a rigid 50 per cent cap...'. He argued the judgment allows a breach in exceptional circumstances.

From the other side, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan defended the High Court decision by citing previous Supreme Court judgements on the matter of reservation limits.



NO PHONE CALL BETWEEN PM, TRUMP YESTERDAY: INDIA ON US PRESIDENT'S OIL CLAIM



Diary Times Desk : India on Thursday firmly denied claims made by US President Donald Trump that he had a recent telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which, he alleges, the PM "assured" him India would cease purchasing oil from Russia.

Responding to the US President's claim, the Centre clarified that no such conversation had taken place.

"Regarding the comment from the US on the energy issue, we have already issued a statement, which you can refer to. As for the telephonic conversation, I can say that there has been no discussion between the Prime Minister and President Trump," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal, said today. The clarification followed comments made by Trump at the White House, where he spoke at length about his rapport with PM Modi and the bilateral relationship between India and the US. Calling PM Modi "a great man" and India "an incredible country," Trump suggested that the two leaders had spoken recently and might meet on the sidelines of the upcoming ASEAN Summit in Malaysia. When asked about the possibility of that meeting, Trump replied, "Yeah, sure, he's a friend of mine. We have a great relationship." He went on to say, "He's a great man. He loves Trump. I have watched India for years. It's an incredible country, and every single year you'd have a new leader."

RS 5 CRORE CASH, MERCEDES, AUDI: STUNNING SEIZURE FROM IPS OFFICER'S HOUSE



Diary Times Desk : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer posted as Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Ropar Range in Punjab, in a corruption case that began with an alleged demand for Rs 8 lakh but has since revealed evidence of massive unexplained wealth, including Rs 5 crore in cash, luxury vehicles, jewellery, and high-end watches.

DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar, a 2009-batch IPS officer, was arrested along with a private individual identified as Krishna, who allegedly acted as his middleman. The CBI said the officer was caught demanding and receiving bribes through this intermediary to "settle" a criminal case filed against a local businessman, and had been soliciting recurring monthly payments.

The Complaint And The Operation

The case was registered by the CBI on Thursday, following a written complaint submitted five days earlier by a scrap dealer called Akash Batta in Punjab's Fatehgarh Sahib. The complainant alleged that DIG Bhullar had been threatening to implicate him in a fabricated case related to his business operations unless he paid Rs 8 lakh as an initial bribe, followed by monthly "settlement" payments. According to the CBI's First Information Report (FIR), Bhullar demanded that the payments be routed through his associate Krishna, who allegedly repeatedly pressured him. In one intercepted conversation, Krishna allegedly said, "The August payment was not paid, the September payment was not paid."

DREAMS OF HIS FATHER

"WILL FULFIL HIS DREAMS": SON OF HARYANA COP WHO DIED BY SUICIDE



Diary Times Desk : The son of a police officer in Haryana has made a promise to fulfil the dreams of his father, who allegedly died by suicide on Tuesday.

The young boy, surrounded by reporters at the funeral of his father, fought back tears as he said, "I am proud of my father. I will fulfil all his dreams."

Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar Lathar, who worked with the cyber cell in Rohtak, left behind a note containing allegations against a senior police officer, who, too, worked in the same district and died by suicide recently.

Lathar's alleged death by suicide and the note claimed to have been left by him has introduced a huge twist in the other death by suicide case of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Y Puran Kumar in Chandigarh. A first information report (FIR) for abetment to suicide has been filed by Lathar's wife in Haryana based on the note and a video, which again was claimed to have been made by him.

Lathar's cremation took place this afternoon after the authorities conducted a postmortem.

His daughter told reporters in Julana that she is hopeful the police and the government will help her family in getting justice. "My father gave his life in the fight against corruption, he is a martyr... I have faith that Haryana Police and the government will support us," she said. The last rites were held in Jind. A large number of young people on motorcycles carrying the national flag drove alongside the police vehicle that carried the body. Villagers and leaders from across party lines attended.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini met with Lathar's family on Wednesday. Today, Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said Lathar's wife would be given a job and the government will take care of the studies of his children. He made the announcement after visiting the grieving family.

COMMITTED TO UPROOTING MAOISTS BEFORE MARCH 31 NEXT YEAR: AMIT SHAH



Diary Times Desk : As many as 258 battle-hardened Maoists have surrendered in Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra in the last two days, Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced on Thursday.

He also gave a clear message to the Maoists that if they surrender, they will be welcomed but those who continue to wield the gun will face the wrath of security forces.

Amit Shah also declared that two worst-hit regions of Chhattisgarh are now free from Maoist terror.

Terminating it as a landmark day, he announced that 170 Maoists surrendered in Chhattisgarh on Thursday, a day after 27 had laid down their arms in the state and 61 others in Maharashtra.

A total of 258 battle-hardened left-wing extremists have abjured violence in the last two days, he said.

"I applaud their decision to renounce violence, reposing their trust in the Constitution of India. It attests to the fact that Naxalism is breathing its last due to the relentless efforts of the PM @NarendraModi led government to end the menace," he said. Amit Shah said the Modi government's policy is clear: "those who want to surrender are welcome, and those who continue to wield the gun will face the wrath of our forces".



SUPREME COURT RELIEF FOR ONCE-ARRESTED TELANGANA WOMEN JOURNALISTS



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the re-arrest of two women-journalists from Telangana - first arrested on March 12 and released on bail five days later - for posting and amplifying allegedly abusive social media content against Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

A bench of Justice Sandeep Mehta Vikram Nath put a Telangana High Court order on hold and issued a notice to the state government, seeking its reply to the journalists' plea.

Pulse News chief Pogadadanda Revathy and Thanvi Yadav, a reporter for the same channel, moved the Supreme Court Tuesday after the High Court upheld a lower court order.

The re-arrest order followed the state challenging the lower court's grant of bail. On Monday, the High Court upheld that order.

The journalists' counsel then sought an urgent hearing in the Supreme Court, telling a separate bench, one led by Chief Justice BR Gavai, that the women fear being taken into custody again.

IN SIR HEARING, TOP COURT REMARKS ON ABSENCE OF LAWYERS FOR POLITICAL PARTIES

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed that a clear set of guidelines and a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is needed for the nationwide implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. At the same time, the bench expressed concern over the absence of senior lawyers representing major opposition parties, including the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), during the crucial hearing.

The observations came from Justice Surya Kant, who noted the apparent lack of interest from political parties in a matter that has major implications for electoral transparency and voter rights. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), which has challenged the Election Commission of India's (ECI) handling of the SIR in Bihar, informed the court that senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi.

"A CRACKER IS A CRACKER": TOP CHEST SURGEON WARNS OVER USE OF GREEN CRACKERS

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Wednesday gave a green light to the sale and use of green crackers on Diwali in Delhi and neighbouring cities, lifting its previous blanket ban on the use of firecrackers in the wake of air pollution in the national capital. Green crackers are less polluting than traditional firecrackers, but they still add to pollution, said Arvind Kumar, Delhi's top chest surgeon, labelling green crackers a "misnomer."

"The word 'green' to me is a misnomer which takes away the risk element or rather makes it appear less problematic," said Professor-Doctor, Arvind Kumar, Founder, Trustee at Lung Care Foundation and Chest Surgeon at Medanta - The Medicity, while speaking to NDTV. "A cracker is a cracker. If you burn a cracker, there will be pollution. The best strategy to safeguard yourself is to not burst crackers at all," he added.

Developed by CSIR-NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute), green firecrackers are said to cause 30 per cent less pollution due to lower use of raw materials, reduced shell size and dust suppressants.

"Conventional crackers have mercury, lead, heavy metals, barium and other toxic substances. The green crackers are supposed to have much lower content of these toxic elements, but not zero," said Dr Kumar.

'BATTLE OF THE BROS' ON X AS CONGRESS, JDS CLASH OVER BENGALURU POTHOLES



Diary Times Desk : A Congress versus Janata Dal Secular 'bro battle' broke on X Thursday after the latter tried to roast Karnataka's ruling party. The fuel was Andhra Pradesh minister Nara Lokesh's post this morning - a 'spicy' jab at the Congress in a rapidly escalating tiff over infrastructure and investment in Bengaluru.

JDS youth wing chief Nikhil Kumaraswamy - son of party boss and ex-Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy - set the ball rolling with a follow-up to Lokesh's post. "Andhra is cooking up investments, Karnataka's are busy cooking excuses. Andhra is attracting Google, Karnataka's ministers are threatening people who use it. No roads, no funds, no jobs... just reels, real estate, and rhetoric!" And then the first 'bro'.

IMD WARNS OF HEAVY RAIN, THUNDERSTORMS AS NORTHEAST MONSOON BEGINS IN TN, PUDUCHERRY

Diary Times Desk : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has officially announced the onset of the Northeast Monsoon over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Karaikal on Thursday.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, an upper air cyclonic circulation over the Comorin region, coupled with easterly and northeasterly winds, has triggered the first major spell of monsoon showers.

The IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in Theni, Tenkasi, Tirunelveli, Kanyakumari, Virudhunagar, Thoothukudi, and Ramanathapuram districts on Thursday. Heavy rain is also likely in Madurai, Dindigul, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode, Tiruppur, Sivaganga, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Villuppuram, Chengalpattu, Chennai, and Tiruvallur districts, besides Puducherry and Karaikal.

BJP ANNOUNCES ALL 101 NAMES FOR BIHAR, RELEASES 3RD LIST OF 18 CANDIDATES

Diary Times Desk : Late on Wednesday night, the BJP announced its third list of 18 candidates, taking the total count of declared candidates to 101, also the number of seats allotted to the party in the final seat-sharing distribution within the NDA for Bihar polls.

Earlier today, the party had released its second list of 12 names. On Tuesday, the party had released a list of 71 names, fielding Bihar Deputy Chief Ministers Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha from Tarapur and Lakhisarai seats, respectively, and six state ministers. The BJP has dropped 16 sitting MLAs from its list of 101 candidates.

According to the BJP list, folk singer Maithili Thakur will contest from Alinagar in Darbhanga district.

Bihar BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal has said that the NDA is going into the elections with "rock-solid unity."

Principal rival Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal is yet to announce its candidates. The Congress, RJD's alliance partner, has not released a formal list, although it has named some of its candidates on X.

BJP allies Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal (United), contesting on 101 seats, and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), fighting on 29 seats, have also declared some of their candidates, while Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) has announced all of its six candidates for the polls.

INFOSYS FOUNDERS NARAYANA MURTHY, SUDHA MURTY REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN KARNATAKA SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY

Diary Times Desk : Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy and his wife MP Sudha Murty reportedly declined to take part in the ongoing Socio-Economic and Educational Survey being conducted by the Karnataka government. They told the enumerators that the survey is of no use to the government.

The couple is within legal limits by refusing to take part in the survey as the Karnataka High Court had ruled that the participation in the survey is not mandatory and also that enumerators cannot insist on answers from the public.

They reportedly told the enumerators, who went for the survey at their residence at Jayanagar 4th T Block, that they do not belong to any backward caste and they do not wish to take part in the survey.

WHY INDIA'S REALIST FOREIGN POLICY IS INVISIBILISING GENDER APARTHEID IN AFGHANISTAN

Diary Times Desk : "It is all propaganda. We have Sharia there and everybody has rights," reiterated Amir Khan Muttaqi, the visiting Taliban foreign minister of the Emirate of Afghanistan, tossing aside the question on women's rights violations.

As if to clinch the matter, Muttaqi trotted out the improvement in the security situation. "Before August 2021 there were at least 200-400 deaths every day. Today they have stopped. Have you seen any protests taking place? No, people are happy", he insisted at the all-male press conference in the contested Afghanistan Embassy in Delhi.

India, driven by realist strategic interests, is poised to upgrade diplomatic relations and is fast sliding towards legitimating the Taliban's order in Afghanistan.



'THIS IS MURDER ATTEMPT...': UGLY MINISTER VS MINISTER ROW IN TELANGANA CONGRESS

Diary Times Desk : Infighting within Telangana's ruling Congress escalated Wednesday after police turned up at Environment Minister Konda Surekha's home in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills searching for her former aide, N Sumanth, 24 hours after he was removed from his post over corruption claims.

Surekha is the Congress' MP from Warangal and an influential OBC leader. And Sumanth faces allegations of trying to extort money - by saving a gun - from an official of Deccan Cements Pvt Ltd.

The arrival of the cops - a special team that works directly under the Hyderabad Police Commissioner - was received with scorn by the minister's daughter, Konda Susmita, who accused the Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's office of targeting Sumanth and her family by forcing Sumanth to state on record that her father, Konda Murali, had ordered the extortion.

"My mother and father are being targeted by the state government. My mother is a minister, and look how they're treating us. We don't understand what we've done wrong. There are murder attempts on us, and this is a murder attempt," she told reporters who gathered quickly.



"GENERAL FLED": ANURAG THAKUR'S DIG AT PRASHANT KISHOR NOT FIGHTING POLLS

Diary Times Desk : Jan Suraaj Party chief Prashant Kishor's decision not to contest the upcoming election in Bihar has drawn a swipe from senior BJP leader Anurag Thakur. Thakur, who reached Patna today to campaign for the BJP, referred to Kishor as the "general" who fled before the battle. "The general has fled. What will happen to the Army?" he told NDTV.

A former Union Minister, Thakur was also asked why there is no Muslim among the BJP's 101 candidates for the Bihar election. "We give tickets based on winnability. We focus on Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. We do not provide facilities to people based on religion and caste. The one who can win gets the ticket," he said.

Putting an end to speculation about which seat he will contest from, Kishor yesterday said in an interview that he won't contest the polls.

SHILPA SHETTY WITHDRAWS TRAVEL PLEA AMID RS 60-CRORE FRAUD PROBE

Diary Times Desk : Actor Shilpa Shetty has formally withdrawn her interim petition seeking permission to travel abroad amid a Rs 60-crore fraud probe involving her and husband Raj Kundra, the Bombay High Court was informed on Thursday. The move comes after the court signalled strong reservations about granting the couple permission.

Advocate Niranjana Mundargi, appearing for Shetty, told a bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhara and Justice Gautam Ankhad that the foreign trip - to the US for a "professional commitment," reportedly linked to an international video collaboration - "did not materialise," and that she was not pressing the current travel request. He was allowed to file a fresh application if the couple wished to travel in the future.

The main writ petition challenging the Look Out Circular (LOC) issued against Shetty and Kundra has been listed for further hearing on November 17.

NIMISHA PRIYA'S EXECUTION IN YEMEN OVER MURDER STAYED FOR NOW, TOP COURT TOLD

Diary Times Desk : The execution of Indian nurse Nimisha Priya, on charges of murder in Yemen, has been stayed for now and nothing adverse was happening, the Supreme Court was informed on Thursday.

Appearing for the Union Government, Attorney General R Venkataramani told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that a new mediator has stepped into the matter.

The top court was hearing a plea seeking direction to the Centre to use diplomatic channels to save the 38-year-old Indian nurse, who was convicted of murdering her Yemeni business partner in 2017.

"What has happened to the execution?" the bench asked.

The counsel appearing for petitioner organisation 'Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council', which is extending legal support to Priya, said the execution was stayed as of now.

Attorney General Venkataramani said "there is a new mediator who has stepped into the picture".

WHO BANS SALE OF MISLEADING ORS PRODUCTS, ISSUES STRICT WARNING

Diary Times Desk : In a major step, FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) has prohibited the naming of a food product 'ORS' unless it's based on the formula recommended by WHO.

Diarrhoea, the third leading cause of childhood mortality in India, can be managed effectively with ORS. However, many pharmacies across the country sold products labeled as electrolyte products but did not meet the guidelines recommended by the WHO.

The new order has been issued on October 14 and clearly mentions how the term could be used by Food Business Operators. "All food business operators are directed to remove the word "ORS" from their food products, whether used as a standalone term or in combination with any prefix/suffix or as part of the trademark with prefix/suffix in the product name.



UN STILL REFLECTS REALITIES OF 1945, MUST REFORM OR RISK EROSION OF LEGITIMACY:

JAISHANKAR

Diary Times Desk :

Calling for reform of the United Nations, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said it still reflects the realities of 1945, not 2025.

"For the UN to be effective, it must reform, becoming more inclusive, democratic, participative, and representative of today's world," he said here on Thursday, while addressing the UN Troop Contributing Countries Chiefs' Conclave.

"The United Nations today still reflects the realities of 1945, not of 2025. Eighty years is a long time by any standards and during this period the UN membership has actually quadrupled," he said.

"Institutions that fail to adapt risk not just irrelevance but eroding legitimacy, leaving us without recourse in times of uncertainty," Jaishankar underlined.

Noting that India approaches peacekeeping from its civilizational ethos, he said, "We see the world as one family, a vision enshrined in the timeless phrase of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. This is not just cultural wisdom, but an outlook that anchors our world view. It is why India has consistently advocated for justice, dignity, opportunity and prosperity for all societies and peoples. It is also why we place our faith in multilateralism and international partnerships."

"YOU BETTER REPRESENT US, NOT THEM": TRUMP TO US ENVOY TO INDIA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump once again took the credit for brokering peace between India and Pakistan using tariff as threat. Trump, pegged as 'The Peace President', has often claimed to be the right heir and the most deserving candidate of Nobel Peace Prize for stopping "eight" wars. The President seemed unbothered by not receiving the Nobel Peace Prize 2025 because he cares about "saving hundreds and millions of lives."

8 Wars In 8 Months

Addressing the media from the White House, Trump on Wednesday said he has stopped eight wars ever since he took the office in January this year.

"...I don't think any President has stopped one war. I stopped eight wars in eight months. Did I get a Nobel Prize? No. Can you believe it? Even I said "that's impossible. No."

TRUMP SAYS HE AUTHORISED CIA IN VENEZUELA AS MADURO SAYS 'NO TO REGIME CHANGE'

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has confirmed a report he authorised the CIA to conduct covert operations inside Venezuela, provoking outrage from the South American nation's leader.

US forces have already conducted at least five strikes on suspected drug-carrying boats in the Caribbean in recent weeks, killing 27 people. UN-appointed human rights experts have described the raids as "extrajudicial executions".

Speaking at the White House, Trump said the US "is looking at land" as it considers further strikes on drug cartels in the region.

Nicolás Maduro, whose legitimacy as Venezuela's president is internationally contested after disputed elections last year, appealed on TV for peace with the US.

He addressed the "people of the United States", saying "no war, yes peace".

THE MAN BEHIND PAKISTAN'S DEADLY NEW ENEMY, AFGHANISTAN



Diary Times Desk : Hanging over the recent eruption of fighting between Pakistan and Afghanistan, the most serious clash between the neighbours in decades, is the spectre of a militant leader Islamabad accuses of directing near-daily attacks on its soil.

An uneasy ceasefire took hold on Wednesday, but Pakistan's main grievance endures: the presence of Noor Wali Mehsud in Afghanistan, along with his top lieutenants.

Last week, an airstrike in Kabul hit an armoured Toyota Land Cruiser believed to be carrying him, according to Pakistani security officials. Militants and Pakistani officials say he likely survived, and the group released an audio message purportedly from him.

US PASSPORT IS OUT OF THE GLOBAL TOP 10 AND CHINA MIGHT BE THE REASON WHY

Diary Times Desk : The United States has dropped out of the world's top 10 most powerful passports for the first time. According to the latest Henley Passport Index, which measures how many countries travellers can visit without a visa, the US passport now ranks 12th globally, sharing the position with Malaysia, with visa-free access to 180 of 227 destinations worldwide.

Last year, the US held seventh place and fell to tenth in July this year. In 2014, it was at the top of the list.

Asian 'Trifecta' Dominates Henley Passport Index

In the 2025 rankings, three Asian countries are at the top of the leaderboard. Singapore tops the list with visa-free access to 193 destinations, followed by South Korea with 190 and Japan with 189.

"The declining strength of the US passport over the past decade is more than just a reshuffle in rankings – it signals a fundamental shift in global mobility and soft power dynamics," said Christian H Kaelin, chair of Henley & Partners, and creator of the index. "Nations that embrace openness and cooperation are surging ahead, while those resting on past privilege are being left behind," he added.

CHIEF OF STAFF IN YEMEN HOUTHİ REBEL'S MILITARY DIES IN ISRAELI AIR STRIKE

Diary Times Desk : The military chief of Yemen's Huthi rebels has been killed in an Israeli attack, the Iran-backed group said on Thursday, threatening revenge.

Major General Mohammed al-Ghamari died in "honourable battle against the Israeli enemy", a military statement said, without giving further details.

His death was announced days into a ceasefire in the two-year Gaza war, during which the Huthis repeatedly attacked Israeli targets and cargo ships in the Red Sea.

Ghamari died alongside "companions" and his 13-year-old son, the Huthi statement said, without giving the date of the attack.

The Huthis' general staff headquarters in Sanaa was among the targets of the last major Israeli air strikes on Yemen in late September, Israel's military said at the time.

But Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz posted on X on Thursday that Ghamari "died of his wounds" after a strike in late August that killed the Huthi prime minister and half his cabinet.

FRENCH PM SURVIVES NO-CONFIDENCE VOTES AFTER MAKING PENSION CONCESSION

Diary Times Desk : French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu survived two no-confidence votes in parliament on Thursday, winning crucial backing from the Socialist Party thanks to his pledge to suspend President Emmanuel Macron's contested pension reform.

The two motions presented by the hard-left France Unbowed and the far-right National Rally (RN) secured just 271 and 144 votes respectively – well short of the 289 votes needed to bring down Lecornu's days-old government.

Lecornu's offer to mothball the pension reform until after the 2027 presidential election helped sway the Socialists, giving the government a lifeline in the deeply fragmented National Assembly.

Despite the reprieve, the motions underscored the fragility of Macron's administration midway through his final term. "A majority cobbled together through horse-trading managed today to save their positions, at the expense of the national interest," RN party president Jordan Bardella wrote on X.

The French bond market remained steady after the back-to-back votes, with the government victory widely expected by investors.



US NOVEMBER VISA BULLETIN 2025: EB PREFERENCES STATIC FOR INDIA BUT FAMILY CATEGORIES MOVE AHEAD IN GREEN CARD LINE



Diary Times Desk : As the U.S. fiscal year begins, the Department of State has released the November 2025 Visa Bulletin, outlining the latest updates for immigrant visa availability and adjustment of status (AOS) filing windows.

For Indian visa seekers, the bulletin reflects modest movement in family filing rules and largely stable employment preferences.

Employment-based: status quo prevails, with USCIS filing chart confirmed
USCIS has announced that for November, employment-based (EB) applicants should use the Date of Filing chart, giving eligible applicants clarity about when they can file their AOS applications, even if a visa isn't yet available.

AUSTRIAN SURGEON FACES TRIAL FOR ALLEGEDLY LETTING 12-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER DRILL HOLE INTO PATIENT'S SKULL

Diary Times Desk : An Austrian neurosurgeon has gone on trial after being accused of allowing her 12-year-old daughter to use a surgical drill on a patient's skull during an operation earlier this year. The doctor has denied the charge. The case stems from an incident at Graz Regional Hospital in January 2024, where the surgeon was involved in treating a 33-year-old farm worker who had sustained a severe head injury in a workplace accident. The operation, which was led by two doctors – a senior physician and a trainee neurosurgeon – reportedly took place while the accused doctor's daughter was present inside the operating theatre.

BIG RELIEF FOR SPOUSES OF H-1B VISA HOLDERS AS US SUPREME COURT REJECTS CHALLENGE TO H-4 WORK RULE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Tuesday declined to hear a case challenging the rule that allows the dependents of H-1B visa holders, also known as H-4 visa holders, to work in the United States, Reuters reported.

The group that filed the lawsuit, Save Jobs USA, had argued that federal immigration law does not permit these dependents to take jobs and compete with American workers while in the country.

Neither the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) nor lawyers for Save Jobs USA have since commented on the development, Reuters reported.

TRUMP SPOILT TIES WITH INDIA 'OUT OF EGO, MONEY FROM PAKISTAN': EX-ENVOY



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has literally "thrown away 40 years" of efforts to enhance the country's relationship with India "out of ego and some money from Pakistan", former US envoy to Japan Rahm Emanuel has said.

India could have acted as a major counterweight for the US against China but President Trump "threw it all away", Emanuel added, terming the developments a "major strategic blunder".

The former envoy, who also served as former US President Barack Obama's Chief of Staff, was speaking to Meidastouch network when he made the remarks.

WHITE HOUSE LIKELY TO LAY OFF 10,000 WORKERS DURING SHUTDOWN

Diary Times Desk : The White House said Wednesday it will likely lay off at least 10,000 federal workers during the US government shutdown as Republican President Donald Trump steps up pressure on Democrats. The shutdown has ground into its third week, with Congress deadlocked in a clash over spending and Trump following through on his threats to take a hatchet to the workforce in response.

"I think we'll probably end up being north of 10,000," White House Office of Management and Budget chief Russ Vought said in an interview with the Charlie Kirk show when asked how many layoffs there would be.

TRUMP SAYS COUNTRIES ARE 'DROPPING OUT' OF BRICS: HERE'S WHY HIS CLAIM DOESN'T SURVIVE A FACT-CHECK

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's relationship with facts has often been tenuous, and his latest claim about the BRICS bloc is no exception. At a White House meeting with Argentinian President Javier Milei, Trump declared that countries were "dropping out" of BRICS because of his tariff threats. He even boasted that his policies had forced the grouping's collapse, calling it "an attack on the dollar."

The reality, however, tells a very different story. Far from falling apart, BRICS has been expanding, with new members joining and several others lining up to be part of the bloc. Experts and officials across the world have since rejected Trump's claim as baseless, pointing out that the grouping continues to gain strength and global relevance.

While hosting Argentinian President Javier Milei at the White House, Trump once again defended his tariff policies, claiming they had successfully weakened BRICS. "I told anybody who wants to be in BRICS, that's fine, but we're going to put tariffs on your nation. Everybody dropped out. They're all dropping out of BRICS," he said. Trump went on to assert that his actions had preserved the strength of the US dollar. "I'm very strong on the dollar, and anybody that wants to deal in dollars, they have an advantage over people that aren't... BRICS was an attack on the dollar, and I said, 'You want to play that game, I'm going to put tariffs on all of your products coming into the US.' They said, like I said, we're dropping out of BRICS... They don't even talk about it anymore." Contrary to Trump's assertion, no BRICS member has dropped out of the grouping. In fact, the bloc has only expanded in recent years. Formed in 2009 by Russia, India, China and Brazil as an informal coalition challenging Western dominance, it became BRICS in 2010 when South Africa joined.

PLANE CARRYING US DEFENCE SECRETARY MAKES EMERGENCY LANDING IN UK

Diary Times Desk : A plane carrying US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth was forced to make an emergency landing in Britain on Wednesday due to a crack in the aircraft's windshield.

Hegseth was returning to the United States from a NATO defense ministers meeting in Brussels when his plane made the unscheduled landing at an unnamed airport in Britain, a spokesperson said.

"The plane landed based on standard procedures and everyone onboard, including Secretary Hegseth, is safe," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said on social media.

"All good. Thank God. Continue mission!" Hegseth posted in reply.

At the NATO meeting, Hegseth called for member countries to contribute more military aid to Ukraine in its fight against Russia's invasion.

**US REVOKES VISAS OVER COMMENTS MADE ABOUT CHARLIE KIRK'S DEATH**

Diary Times Desk : The Trump administration has cancelled the visas of at least six people for public comments made about the murder of right-wing influencer Charlie Kirk. In a post on X, the US Department of State wrote: "The United States has no obligation to host foreigners who wish death on Americans."

It shared screenshots of six social media posts which it said were examples of foreign visa holders welcoming Kirk's death in September, and suggested further visa cancellations would follow.

Kirk, an ally of President Donald Trump, was shot dead while speaking at a university event in Utah.

The 31-year-old's legacy has been celebrated by conservatives, who view him as a free speech champion and effective mobiliser of young Republicans.

But comments by Kirk, who co-founded Turning Point USA, a student organisation focused on spreading conservative ideas on college campuses, have prompted angry liberal backlash on numerous occasions, and he was accused of hate speech and racism for his comments on issues such as race and crime.

In the statement on Tuesday, the state department said it "continues to identify visa holders who celebrated the heinous assassination of Charlie Kirk".

CHINA UNVEILS QUANTUM RADAR THAT CAN SPOT STEALTH JETS: FORGET INDIA'S RAFALE, EVEN THE US F-22 HAS NO ESCAPE

Diary Times Desk : China has announced it has begun mass-producing the world's first ultra-sensitive quantum radar detector, called Photon Catcher. The device can detect individual photons, the smallest units of light, making it capable of spotting stealth aircraft that are normally invisible to conventional radar.

Developed at the Quantum Information Engineering Technology Research Center in Anhui Province, Photon Catcher is set to become a key technology in modern quantum radar and communication systems, giving China a potential edge in monitoring advanced fighter jets like the American F-22 and India's Rafale.

The Science and Technology Daily, published by China's Ministry of Science and Technology, reported last Friday that Photon Catcher is a breakthrough in quantum radar technology.

BANGLADESH PROSECUTION SEEKS DEATH PENALTY FOR DEPOSED PM SHEIKH HASINA OVER PROTEST KILLINGS

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor on Thursday sought the death penalty for deposed premier Sheikh Hasina, alleging that she was the "mastermind and principal architect" behind the crimes against humanity committed during the mass protests last year.

Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following the mass student-led agitation in the country. According to a UN rights office report, up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year as Hasina's government ordered a security crackdown on protesters. "Sheikh Hasina is the mastermind of all the crimes. She is an unrepentant, heartless criminal. She deserves the maximum punishment. No mercy should be shown to her regarding the death penalty," Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam was quoted as saying by the state-run BSS news agency.

PM MODI ASSURED ME INDIA WILL NOT BE BUYING OIL FROM RUSSIA: TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had assured him that India would stop purchasing oil from Russia, describing it as "a big step" in efforts to increase global pressure on Moscow.

Trump made the remarks during a joint news conference with FBI Director Kash Patel at the Oval Office, where the two highlighted the administration's efforts to curb violent crime. Responding to ANI's question on whether he viewed India as a reliable partner, Trump said, "Yeah, sure. He's (PM Narendra Modi) a friend of mine. We have a great relationship...I was not happy that India was buying oil. And he assured me today that they will not be buying oil from Russia. That's a big stop. Now we've got to get China to do the same thing."

ARMY COLONEL PLANS TO LEAD MADAGASCAR AFTER COUP OUSTS CIVILIAN PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Madagascar's new military ruler, Colonel Michael Randrianirina, said he would be sworn in as president on Friday and was open to talks with the African Union, after it suspended the country's membership following a coup to oust President Andry Rajoelina.

Rajoelina, whom lawmakers impeached after he fled abroad during the weekend, has condemned the takeover and refused to step down despite youth-led Gen Z protests asking him to quit and widespread defections in the security forces.

"Colonel Michael Randrianirina will be sworn in as the President for the Refoundation of the Republic of Madagascar during a formal hearing," Randrianirina said in a statement late on Wednesday, adding that the High Constitutional Court would perform the ceremony.

The African Union announced on Wednesday that the bloc had suspended Madagascar with immediate effect following the coup, and called for the restoration of civilian-led governance as well as elections.

Randrianirina told a press conference on Thursday that the bloc's decision was expected.



LAST SURVIVING MEMBER OF FIRST TEAM TO SCALE MOUNT EVEREST DIES AT 92

Diary Times Desk : Kanchha Sherpa, the only surviving member of the mountaineering expedition team that first conquered Mount Everest, died early Thursday, according to the Nepal Mountaineering Association.

Kanchha died at age 92 at his home in Kapan in the Kathmandu district of Nepal, confirmed Phur Gelje Sherpa, the association president.

"He passed away peacefully at his residence," Phur Gelje Sherpa said, explaining he had been unwell for some time. "A chapter of the mountaineering history has vanished with him." Last rites will be held Monday, he said.

Kanchha Sherpa was among the 35 members of the team that put New Zealander Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay atop the 8,849-metre peak on May 29, 1953. He was one of three Sherpas to reach the final camp before the summit with Hillary and Tenzing.

CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION: INDIA ON AFGHANISTAN-PAKISTAN CLASHES

Diary Times Desk : India on Thursday said it is closely monitoring the situation arising out of the conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India remains fully committed to the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Afghanistan.

"Three things are clear — one, that Pakistan hosts terrorist organisations and sponsors terrorist activities, two, it is an old practice of Pakistan to blame its neighbours for its own internal failures," he said. "And, three, Pakistan is infuriated with Afghanistan exercising sovereignty over its own territories," he said.

ANY SUPPORT OR COVER-UP OF TERRORISM WILL 'COME BACK TO BITE THOSE WHO DO SO': INDIA AT NAM MEET

Diary Times Desk : India on Thursday called on Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member states to display zero tolerance for terrorism, saying any sponsorship, support, justification or cover-up of terrorism will "come back to bite those who do so".

Delivering India's statement at the 19th NAM Mid-Term Ministerial Meeting here, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said terrorism is a "shared threat" that can be addressed only through deeper international cooperation.

"For decades, India has been a victim of barbaric cross-border terrorist attacks, most recently on 22 April 2025, when innocent tourists were slaughtered in Pahalgam in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

He said that virtually every member of this movement is cognizant of the challenge posed by terrorism and is committed to combating it.

"However, it is a matter of deep regret that when the UN Security Council deliberated on the Pahalgam terrorist attack, a member state chose to defend the perpetrator — The Resistance Front — to the extent of seeking a deletion of any public reference to them," Singh said, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Unfortunately, we have another member state that defends the action of this country, Singh added, in a veiled reference to Pakistan's all-weather ally China.

POPE LEO URGES WORLD LEADERS 'NOT TO LOOK OTHER WAY' IN FIGHTING GLOBAL HUNGER

Diary Times Desk : Pope Leo XIV on Thursday called on world leaders to show responsibility as he urged the international community to focus on the multitudes across the globe who face hunger, wars and misery. Addressing the World Food Day global ceremony that also marked the 80th anniversary of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation at its headquarters in Rome.

GAZA MAN REUNITED WITH FAMILY AFTER BEING TOLD 'THEY WERE DEAD' IN ISRAELI JAIL

Diary Times Desk : Shadi Abu Sido said his world shattered in Israeli detention when guards told him his wife and two children had been killed in the Gaza war.

"I got hysterical," the Gaza Palestinian photographer said. It wasn't until his release on Monday, part of the US-mediated ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel that halted two years of war, that he discovered his loved ones were alive. His wife, Hanaa Bahlul, raced down the hallway of his family's house in Khan Younis and leapt into his arms. He spun her in the air as they clung to each other. Abu Sido kissed his children's cheeks again and again, murmuring "my love" as he held the daughter and son he thought he would never see again.

"I heard her voice, I heard the voice of my children, I was astonished, it cannot be explained, they were alive. I saw my wife and children alive. Imagine amid death - life," he said.

Abu Sido, a photojournalist, said he was detained at Shifa hospital in the northern Gaza Strip on March 18, 2024. He was among 1,700 Palestinians detained by Israeli forces during the devastating war in Gaza and released on Monday, along with 250 prisoners convicted or suspected of involvement in deadly attacks, in exchange for 20 Israeli hostages held by Hamas since its October 2023 cross-border assault.

**DETAINED UNDER THE 'UNLAWFUL COMBATANTS' LAW**

Bahlul said a lawyer from Addameer, a Palestinian human rights group, had told her Abu Sido was being held under Israel's Unlawful Combatants Law — a form of administrative detention.

Omer Shatz, an Israeli international law expert at Sciences Po university in Paris, said the law allows Israel to limit access to lawyers, incarcerate people without charge or trial, and arbitrarily detain many Palestinians in Gaza.

KUCHIPUDI DANCER ARUNIMA KUMAR RECEIVES KING'S HONOUR IN UK

Diary Times Desk : Celebrated UK-based artist Arunima Kumar on Thursday became the first Kuchipudi dancer to be conferred King Charles III's Honorary British Empire Medal (BEM), for services to Indian classical dance and community.

The Honorary BEM, a royal honour awarded for "hands-on" service to the local community, comes in recognition of Kumar's tireless efforts in taking Indian classical dance, particularly Kuchipudi, to global platforms and fostering cross-cultural understanding through the arts.

The renowned cultural leader, influencer and ambassador has many firsts to her credit, including performances at Buckingham Palace and Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee celebrations and Diwali festivities at 10 Downing Street in London.

TRUMP'S EV RETREAT IS A HUGE WIN FOR HIS NO.

1 TRADE RIVAL

Diary Times Desk : Two years ago, as President Donald Trump was running for reelection, he derided President Joe Biden's electric vehicle push as a "hoax" promoted by "Radical Left Fascists, Marxists & Communists."

"Within 3 years, all of these cars will be made in China," he wrote on social media at the time.

That last jab now reads as more of a promise than a prediction. Since returning to office, Trump and congressional Republicans have upended the landscape for electric vehicle development in America, yanking the \$7,500 tax incentives that helped entice car buyers, freezing funding for charging infrastructure development and eliminating fuel-efficiency targets for automakers.

The result: The US is retreating on EVs just as China, its No. 1 economic rival, is going full steam ahead, cementing its dominance over not only global EV sales but also the supply chains for batteries and critical rare-earth minerals used in their production.

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 met on Tuesday at the White House for a bilateral meeting, where the discussion included the extraordinary bailout and tariffs, Trump said. The bailout is "really meant to help a good financial philosophy" and "so we can help our neighbors," Trump said during their meeting.

On Wednesday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the administration is working on an additional \$20 billion in aid for Argentina, funded by private banks and sovereign wealth funds, according to a transcript provided by Treasury.

LAST PAYCHECKS AND NEW SIDE HUSTLES: GOVERNMENT WORKERS' TIKTOKS SHOW SHUTDOWN LIFE

Diary Times Desk : "Good morning, my fellow federal furloughed employees!"

That's the start of one of scores of TikTok videos that have been posted by federal workers in the two weeks since the government shutdown began.

A growing number of affected employees — both furloughed workers and essential staffers who must continue showing up to work with no pay — have been chronicling their shutdown experience on the video app to educate other users about the situation. Some hope the videos might earn them a bit of extra cash, as they have no timeline for their next paycheck.

The videos provide a window into the human impact of the budget fight that's largely played out among lawmakers on Capitol Hill and across TV screens, with little apparent progress toward reopening the government.

Roughly 1.4 million federal employees have been furloughed or are now working without pay. Many recently received their final paychecks for the foreseeable future.

CNN agreed not to use staffers' full names in this story to protect their jobs.



WHY JAMIE DIMON IS WARNING OF 'COCKROACHES' IN THE US ECONOMY

Diary Times Desk : Many Americans shrugged off the implosion of a pair of overleveraged Bear Stearns hedge funds in 2007. Stocks were at record highs, after all. But later it became apparent that those bankruptcies were among the first shoes to drop in an epic financial meltdown that would impact virtually all Americans.

Wall Street CEO Jamie Dimon rescued Bear Stearns when it nearly collapsed in 2008. Today, he cautions that trouble could be lurking again beneath the red-hot markets.

First, a subprime auto lender and dealer went bust last month in a crash fueled by plenty of risky loans and, allegedly, "pervasive fraud" of "extraordinary proportion," a lawyer said in court. Then First Brands, an auto-parts supplier built on complex and hidden loans, blinded Wall Street with a bankruptcy that financial firms are highly exposed to.



SMUCKER SUES TRADER JOE'S, SAYING ITS NEW PB&J SANDWICHES ARE TOO SIMILAR TO UNCRUSTABLES

Diary Times Desk : The J.M. Smucker Co. is suing Trader Joe's, alleging the grocery chain's new frozen peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are too similar to Smucker's Uncrustables in their design and packaging.

In the lawsuit, which was filed Monday in federal court in Ohio, Smucker said the round, crustless sandwiches Trader Joe's sells have the same pie-like crimp markings on their edges that Uncrustables do. Smucker said the design violates its trademarks.

Smucker also asserted that the boxes Trader Joe's PB&J sandwiches come in violate the Orrville, Ohio-based company's trademarks because they are the same blue color it uses for the lettering on "Uncrustables" packages.

Trader Joe's boxes also show a sandwich with a bite mark taken out of it, which is similar to the Uncrustables design, Smucker said.

"Smucker does not take issue with others in the marketplace selling prepackaged, frozen, thaw-and-eat crustless sandwiches. But it cannot allow others to use Smucker's valuable intellectual property to make such sales," the company said in its lawsuit.



MICROSOFT, AWS, AND GOOGLE PLAN TO MOVE MOST PRODUCTION OUT OF CHINA AMID RISING US-CHINA TENSIONS

Diary Times Desk :

Microsoft is preparing to manufacture a majority of its new products, including Surface laptops and data center servers, outside of China starting as early as 2026, according to Nikkei Asia. The company has asked multiple suppliers to explore options for producing not just the final products, but also key components and assemblies abroad. This move is part of a broader effort to reduce reliance on China amid ongoing U.S.-China tensions.

AWS is following a similar path, particularly for its AI data center servers. The company is even evaluating whether it can reduce dependence on long-time Chinese suppliers, such as PCB manufacturers, though replacing these partners is challenging because they have long-standing relationships and high-quality production. AWS's strategy highlights the difficulties of moving supply chains at the component level.

UTTARAKHAND TO HOST PRE-SUMMIT TO INDIA AI IMPACT SUMMIT 2026 ON FRIDAY

Diary Times Desk : Uttarakhand will play host to a key pre-summit event ahead of next year's India-AI Impact Summit 2026, with the state government partnering with the India AI Mission and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to organise the Uttarakhand AI Impact Summit 2025 in Dehradun. The one-day conference, to be held at Hotel Ramada in Dehradun on Friday (17 October), aims to explore how artificial intelligence can drive sustainable and inclusive growth in India's hill state.

It will also serve as a curtain-raiser to the main global AI summit scheduled for 19-20 February 2026, at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. The Uttarakhand AI event will be inaugurated by Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Commerce and Industry, and will be attended by senior officials from MeitY and the Uttarakhand government.

HERE'S EVERYTHING THAT GOOGLE'S \$15 BILLION AI BET REALLY BRINGS TO INDIA



Diary Times Desk : When Google announced its landmark \$15 billion investment in an AI hub in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh - its largest investment in India to date - the move marked a pivotal moment in India's digital transformation. But what makes this announcement particularly significant is the strategic partnership model it represents, bringing together American tech giant Google with Indian infrastructure leaders AdaniConneX and Bharti Airtel. This collaboration reveals both the promise and the peril of India's path to becoming an AI-first nation. Spanning 2026-2030, this isn't merely another data centre. It's a comprehensive reimagining of India's digital infrastructure, designed to position the country as a global AI hub serving not just its own 1.4 billion citizens, but Asia and beyond. The scope of this investment is comprehensive and ambitious. At its core lies a purpose-built data centre campus with gigawatt-scale compute capacity - infrastructure built to the same standards that power Google's global services.

OLA ELECTRIC ANNOUNCES ENTRY INTO ₹1 TRILLION BESS MARKET WITH OLA SHAKTI



Diary Times Desk : Ola Electric on Thursday announced its entry into India's ₹1 trillion battery energy storage systems (BESS) market with the launch of Ola Shakti, its first residential energy solution.

In a regulatory filing, the company stated, "We have built world-class battery and cell technology for electric mobility. Ola Shakti extends that innovation to homes, helping them store and use clean energy intelligently."

The filing added, "Ola Shakti is a natural next step for us as we leverage our existing 4680 cell technology, Gigafactory production capabilities, and nationwide Ola network as a ready sales and distribution backbone, ensuring rapid scale without any incremental investment."

Market to grow to ₹3 trn by 2030

With India's BESS market projected to grow to over ₹3 trillion by 2030, Ola Electric expects its annual BESS consumption to scale up to 5 Gigawatt hour (GWh) in the next few years.

Ola Electric Chairman and MD Bhavish Aggarwal said, "India doesn't face an energy shortage; it faces an energy storage opportunity. With Ola Shakti, we are turning that opportunity into energy independence."

Ola Shakti is the first fully indigenously designed, engineered, and manufactured residential BESS in India, using the advanced 4680 Bharat Cell and highly durable, efficient automotive battery packs.

- **Instant power switching:** Switches power instantly (0 milliseconds), unlike traditional inverters or diesel generators, keeping appliances safe.
- **Smart energy management:** Monitors and controls energy use in real-time, learns usage patterns, optimises consumption, and helps save electricity and money.
- **Voltage protection:** Operates across a wide voltage range (120V-290V), protecting devices from fluctuations.

SNOWBOUND IN DHAULADHAR: GADDI SHEPHERDS STRANDED WITH FLOCKS

Diary Times Desk : Several shepherds of Gaddi community from the Holi region of Chamba district have been stranded along with their flocks near the Indrarhar Pass in Dhauladhar Mountain Range following heavy snowfall over the past few days. Vinod Kumar and Pramod own around 550 sheep, Lakha Ram 150, Prem Chand and Rajendra Kumar 450 and Jino Ram about 350. However, as they reached near Indrarhar Pass, the weather suddenly turned hostile. Following a heavy snowfall on higher mountain pass, which continued for two to three days, covering the entire region under thick sheet of snow.

Battling bone-chilling cold, the shepherds somehow managed to save their lives, but many of their sheep and goats – including lambs and kids – went missing in the blizzard.

DEITIES OF KULLU VALLEY CALL FOR 'BIG JAGATI' TO AVERT FORESEEN CALAMITY



Diary Times Desk : In a key development following the conclusion of the Kullu Dasehra festival, Danvender Singh, kardar (custodian) of Lord Raghunath, has announced that Goddess Hadimba has summoned a significant divine congregation – a "Big Jagati" – to be held in Naggar. According to Singh, the deities have foreseen a potential calamity and intend to offer divine guidance to protect the local populace.

Maheshwar Singh, Chharibardar (chief caretaker) of Lord Raghunath, emphasised that the deities were displeased with individuals acting on personal whims, disregarding divine will. This sentiment echoes recent spiritual interventions across the Valley.

Just weeks earlier, on August 27, a "Chhoti Jagati" (smaller divine assembly) was convened at Lord Raghunath's premises in Sultanpur under the auspices of Mata Hadimba.

CBI ARRESTS PUNJAB POLICE DIG HARCHARAN BHULLAR FROM MOHALI OFFICE IN 'CORRUPTION' CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police Harcharan Singh Bhullar from his Mohali office in connection with an alleged corruption case.

The 2007-batch IPS officer Bhullar has been serving as the DIG (Ropar Range).

Sources said one more private individual was also taken into custody by CBI sleuths in the case.

Besides Bhullar's office, his residence and a farmhouse in Khanna were also searched, they added. He was reportedly taken to Panchkula and later brought back.

Sources revealed that the CBI Chandigarh acted on a complaint filed by a scrap dealer from Fatehgarh. The CBI team ensured that no Punjab Police personnel on deputation were part of the raiding party.



ROPAR COPS ARREST REJECTED RS CANDIDATE NAVNEET 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.

Since last evening, a huge posse of the Punjab Police cops had been stationed around the Sector 3 police station to ensure that Chaturvedi did not escape from there.

MEDICAL REPORT CONFIRMS REPEATED SEXUAL ABUSE OF PATIALA SCHOOLGIRL

Diary Times Desk : The medical examination of the eight-year-old girl has revealed repeated sexual abuse, three days after it was alleged that she was raped in school by a physical education teacher.

"We have questioned the school authorities and taken CCTV footage from the school. The victim has identified the accused, who was arrested earlier. A probe is on under the POCSO Act," Cheema said.

According to police sources, they are now seeking help from government counsellors and the district child protection office to ascertain if any other student faced harassment in school.

"We are trying to speak to parents and other students and have requested them to come forward if they have any such incident to share," a source said.

Lahori Gate SHO Shivraj Singh said their teams had visited the school premises to collect evidence and question the authorities. "The school has been asked to submit details of the staff. The probe is on to identify if any other student has faced harassment by the accused," he said.

School principal Chinmayie said they had suspended the teacher.

YOUR HOROSCOPE 17-10-2025

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

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.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER IN DRUNKEN STATE DRAGS POLICE OFFICER ON CAR BONNET IN GURUGRAM, ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : A special police officer (SPO) while patrolling on a rider bike with a constable was dragged on the bonnet of a car for a long distance by a speeding car after being hit near Subhash Chowk. Both the constable and SPO were injured and were rushed to the hospital. The police arrested a software engineer behind the wheel, identified as Abhinav Chaudhary (34), a resident of Greater Noida. The accused is a software engineer in a Gurugram-based private company. According to the police, the accused is a habitual offender and was in a drunken state. He had also hit a police barricade with his car during a check in the Dabua police station area in Faridabad in 2018.

AFTER NINE YEARS, STATE MAY GET ITS 23RD DISTRICT ON NOVEMBER 1

Diary Times Desk : Nearly nine years after Charkhi Dadri became Haryana's 22nd district, the state may soon get its 23rd district, likely to be announced on Haryana Day, November 1. Among the 10 contenders under consideration, Hansi, Gohana and Dabwali have emerged as the front-runners for district status under the Nayab Singh Saini Government.

The move has gained urgency following a circular from the Directorate of Census Operations, Haryana, which mandates the freezing of administrative boundaries of all districts and subdivisions by December 31, 2025, ahead of the Census-2027.

"An important preparatory work in connection with the Census-2027 is to collect and compile the details of all jurisdictional changes that have occurred so far after the Census-2011 and that will occur hereafter till the freezing of the boundaries of administrative units for Census-2027, i.e. up to December 31, 2025," stated a circular issued by Lalit Jain, Director, Directorate of Census Operations. Creation of new districts and changes in jurisdiction of existing ones form a crucial part of this preparatory process, the circular added.

ABETMENT TO SUICIDE CASE REGISTERED IN ROHTAK ASI 'SUICIDE' INCIDENT

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Police has registered an abetment to suicide case in connection with the death of ASI Sandeep Kumar Lather based on the note and video he left behind, a senior police official said on Thursday.

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

In a six-minute video, the ASI also referred to Inspector General (IG) Puran Kumar's wife, senior Haryana bureaucrat Amneet Kumar.

He has also alleged that during the then IG's tenure, transfers of employees posted at the IGP office were made keeping caste in consideration.

The FIR, which lists abetment of suicide and criminal conspiracy, was registered on Wednesday after a complaint by Sandeep Kumar's wife.



AFTER CM'S VISIT, FIR REGISTERED IN ASI SANDEEP'S SUICIDE CASE

Diary Times Desk : Hours after Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini visited the bereaved family of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Sandeep Lather in Ladhaut village, the local police on Wednesday registered an FIR on the complaint filed by his wife, Santosh Devi, in connection with his suicide case.

Following the registration of the case, senior district police and civil officers held a prolonged meeting with the family to convince them to allow the post-mortem examination. The efforts succeeded late at night, after which Sandeep's body was shifted to PGIMS, Rohtak.

"The FIR has been registered, but we have not yet received a copy. The body has now been handed over to the police for the post-mortem examination, which will be conducted at PGIMS on Thursday," said Sanjay, Sandeep's cousin, while speaking to The Tribune after the meeting. Sandeep's body had been kept in a freezer at his maternal uncle's house in Ladhaut since Tuesday, as the family refused to permit the autopsy until the FIR was filed against those named in his suicide note and video.

AFTER FAMILY'S CONSENT, ASI SANDEEP LATHER'S POST-MORTEM CONDUCTED AT ROHTAK PGIMS

Diary Times Desk : A panel of doctors on Thursday conducted a post-mortem examination of Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Sandeep Kumar Lather of Haryana Police at the PGIMS in Rohtak. The entire procedure was videographed. The body was taken to Sandeep's native Julana town in a flower-adorned vehicle. To ensure law and order, a sufficient number of police personnel were deployed outside the postmortem house.

Sandeep's body was brought to the postmortem house late on Wednesday night, after his family permitted the police to take possession of the body, following the registration of a FIR in connection with the suicide case.

It is noteworthy that in his suicide note and video, Sandeep made serious allegations against the late senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, his family, and subordinates. The family withheld the body at Ladhaut village here for approximately 24 hours. The family was demanding registration of FIR against all those named in the suicide note and video before handing the body over to the police. Sandeep shot himself with his service pistol in a room located in a field on the outskirts of Ladhaut on Tuesday afternoon.

ARAVALLI SAFARI PROJECT 'CONSERVATION-DRIVEN', GOVT DEFENDS IN SC

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

In an affidavit filed in response to a petition by five retired Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers and 'People for Aravallis', the 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.

"The proposed area is located in one corner of the earlier proposed 10,000 acres and the selected area has canopy density of less than 40% and is infested with invasive species in most of the area. The wildlife corridor will not be affected with the establishment of the proposed safari park in any manner," the affidavit stated.



World's Largest Food Company Is Cutting 16,000 Jobs Due Partly To Automation

Nestlé will cut around 16,000 jobs worldwide over the next two years as it works to slash costs, including through automation, the world's largest food company said Thursday.

Most of the layoffs – about 12,000 – will affect white-collar professionals as Nestlé targets “operational efficiency,” including by automating processes and using shared services, the company behind such brands as KitKat and Nesquik said in a statement.

Another 4,000 roles will go in manufacturing and the supply chain as part of measures to improve productivity. The overall job cuts will amount to almost 6% of Nestlé's workforce.

“The world is changing, and Nestlé needs to change faster,” new CEO Philipp Navratil said in the statement. “This will include making hard but necessary decisions to reduce headcount.”

The announcement comes as the rise of artificial intelligence has fueled fears over potential job losses in various industries.

The chief executive of Anthropic, a leading AI lab, warned in May that

AI could cause a dramatic spike in unemployment.

Nestlé says on its website that it uses AI in a number of functions, including research and development. In its last annual report, it also said it employs automation and advanced analytics in promotional activities, such as work on discounts and in-store displays.

The planned layoffs add to turmoil at the Swiss company after an unexpected removal of its previous chief executive in early September. Laurent Freixe was dismissed for failing to disclose a romantic relationship with a direct subordinate, which breached Nestlé's code of business conduct.

The company's organic sales, a measure of underlying growth, rose 4.3% in the third quarter, it also said Thursday. Nestlé reiterated its commitment to investing over the medium term despite “ongoing risks from macroeconomic and consumer uncertainties.”

Nestlé's biggest market is North America. Consumers in the United States have grown pessimistic in recent months as they worry about inflation, which could worsen because of higher US tariffs. However, consumer spending has held up so far.

Nestlé's stock jumped early on Thursday. By 7:30 a.m. ET, it was trading 7.6% higher.



Nestlé is not only aiming to improve its own business, but the company is dealing with consumer spending declines due to inflation and global uncertainty. At the same time, some of Nestlé's brands are being impacted by higher coffee and cocoa costs due partly to tariffs from U.S. President Donald Trump.

The company's size has also made it more difficult to quickly adapt to changing consumer preferences, especially as more shoppers turn away from processed foods.



Ana Nicolaci da Costa

“Accepting that we lose market share is no longer an option,” Navratil said. “This mindset has to change.”

‘It’s Killing Business’

TRUMP’S MASS DEPORTATION PUSH IS CRUSHING LOCAL ECONOMIES

In Chicago's Little Village, the Trump administration's sweeping deportation push has paralyzed the economy.



Several fearful employees changed their schedules to prepare food when the store is locked and closed to customers.

Ice cream sales now correlate with how visible immigration agents are in the neighborhood, she said.

“On quiet days with not a lot of detentions, we see an uptick in customers.”

‘Economic lifeline’

The Trump administration said last month it's on track to deport 600,000 unauthorized immigrants this year.

But that push is hurting businesses and local economies that rely on immigrants, both legal and undocumented, who buy everything from food to cars to homes.

A record 14 million unauthorized immigrants, roughly 5.6% of total households, lived in the United States in 2023. Twenty-six million people live in a household with at least one person who lacks legal status.

Not only does this group spend hundreds of billions annually, they also paid more than \$90 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2024, helping fund social services and programs like Social Security.

INFA



Nathaniel Meyersohn

TD Bank estimated that undocumented workers who are spending less will subtract 0.7 percentage points from consumer spending growth this year.

Business owners in Little Village, which is 81% Hispanic, said customers are too frightened to walk the streets of Chicago's second busiest commercial corridor. Sales have plunged, employees are staying home, and stores have temporarily closed since the administration's deportation push in Chicago began on September 8. More than 1,000 people have been arrested in the Department of Homeland Security's “Operation Midway Blitz.”

The economic fallout from deportations is typically focused on the impact to industries with large unauthorized immigrant workforces, such as construction and agriculture. But undocumented immigrants aren't just people who simply go to work each day. They're consumers, too. They spent roughly \$300 billion in 2023, buying goods and services that power the economy.

“It's killing business,” said Mike Moreno, the owner of Moreno's liquor store and speakeasy bar. His father opened the store in Little Village in the 1970s, and it was the first Latino-owned liquor store in Illinois.

“Were it not for Latinos in Chicago, we would not be able to revitalize like we did,” Córdova said.

He said sales have dropped 60% since September. Local residents and longtime business owners alike have been traumatized by immigration agents roaming around the neighborhood, Moreno said, arresting both unauthorized immigrants and US citizens.

“They're going up and down the streets around in loops to scare us,” he said. “I never thought in a million years I'd see something like this.”

Marcela Rodriguez, a franchise operator of Los Mangos, a small Mexican-style ice cream chain, said “people are not stepping outside. Kids are not going to school. It's unbelievable.”

Her business “just completely went downhill” beginning in September, and

Financial Turbulence

GULF NATIONS ARE BETTING BIG ON EGYPT’S NORTH COAST

Since the 1960s, Egypt's North Coast has been a popular vacation spot with the nation's wealthy elite. But now, its 650-mile-long Mediterranean shoreline is undergoing an unprecedented, and rapid, real estate transformation.

Over the past two decades, an estimated \$70 billion has been poured into the North Coast for city-scale projects, including holiday resorts, residential neighborhoods, and industrial zones — and at least \$150 billion more in investment is expected in the coming decades, according to analysis from PwC Middle East.

This money is largely coming from Gulf nations, which have invested \$59 billion in Egypt Since 2021, according to real estate consultancy Knight Frank. Qatar is reportedly currently discussing a \$3.5 billion tourism project there, and last year, Egypt received its largest-ever single foreign investment, which saw \$35 billion from Emirati sovereign wealth fund ADQ earmarked for real estate projects, including \$24 billion for the development rights of Ras El Hekma on the North Coast.

The 170-square-kilometer peninsula — around the same size as Washington, DC — will be developed by Abu Dhabi-

based Modon Holding, and is expected to include residences, resorts, retail, entertainment venues, and public facilities such as hospitals and schools. This aligns with the Egyptian government's push to diversify its economy, with hopes that new luxury resorts will help attract 30 million annual tourists by 2030, up from its record 15.7 million international visitors last year. A report from Knight Frank, published in September, found that half of high-net-worth individuals in the Gulf are looking for holiday homes in Egypt, and the North Coast is one of the nation's most popular real estate markets, second only to the New Administrative Capital.

“Anything that facilitates inbound investment is great — not just for Egypt, but around the region. These are emerging markets, and sentiment plays such an intangible role in boosting real estate market activity,” says Faisal Durrani, head of research for MENA at Knight Frank Middle East, adding: “That feel-good factor is really difficult to quantify.”

Financial turbulence Much of this investment has been driven by Egypt's precarious financial situation: for the past decade, Gulf nations, along with the International Monetary Fund

(IMF), World Bank, and European Union, have been “bailing out Egypt because they're afraid of what its collapse could mean,” in terms of regional security and impact on global trade, says Timothy Kaldas, deputy director of the Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy in Washington, DC.

Analysis from UK-based independent policy institute Chatham House indicates that between 2013 and 2016, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait provided around \$30 billion in aid to Egypt, targeted at stabilizing its economy in the aftermath of the Arab Spring.

But three financial crises later, analysts say Gulf investors are now looking for returns on their investment.

The development of Ras El Hekma will include a free zone says Kaldas.



Rebecca Cairns

“If you look at when we started, we used to sell apartments at \$60,000,” says Mohamed Ali Rashed Alabbar, founder and chairman of Emaar Properties. “Some people made probably five times the value, now.”

MASTERS OF THE AVANT-GARDE: FIVE ARTISTS WHO REWROTE THE RULES**Diary Times Desk : Jannis Kounellis, Sans titre, 1959**

Jannis Kounellis was born in Piraeus, Greece, in 1936. Aged 20, he moved to Rome, to study at the Accademia di Belle Arti. By 1967, he was a key member of the burgeoning Arte Povera movement, known for its use of found materials. Newspaper, road signs, burlap, bed frames, earth and even live animals would be incorporated into his paintings, sculptures, collages and installations.

It was some years previously, in the late 1950s and early 1960s, that Kounellis – then a young, unknown graduate – produced his first influential body of work: the Alfabeti (Alphabet paintings).

The series consists of large, monochrome canvases covered with a seemingly random assortment of letters, numbers and arrows painted in black enamel. 'Kounellis's radical idea was to try to liberate symbols from their traditional roles,' says Renato Pennisi, an international specialist in Christie's Post-War and Contemporary Art department. 'He wanted to see if he could strip them of their contexts and meaning. He turned them into non-conforming structures, icons detached from reality. It was a groundbreaking idea.'

The two-metre-wide Sans titre is an important early work from this series, made in 1959. It was purchased from the artist in the late 1970s, and has remained in the same private Italian collection for half a century. Other Alfabeti paintings hang in the permanent collections of MoMA in New York, the Tate in London, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, and Rome's Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna e Contemporanea.

Alberto Giacometti, Femme debout, 1961-62

Femme debout (1961-62) by Alberto Giacometti is 'an exciting rediscovery that hasn't been seen in public for more than half a century, since the current owner purchased it at auction', says Valérie Didier, head of Christie's Impressionist and Modern Art department in Paris.

Standing 80 centimetres high, the bronze represents one of the artist's most powerful and iconic motifs: the monumental female nude – also the subject of what was arguably his most famous project, Femmes de Venise.

**KNOWLEDGE, PASSION, DETERMINATION AND PATIENCE: THE LEGENDARY LIFE OF THE ESTEEMED CHINESE CERAMICS COLLECTOR AU BAK LING****Diary Times Desk : Humble beginnings with great ambitions**

Au Bak Ling was born in Hong Kong in 1928 into a poor family. When he was only ten years old, he was forced to leave school, in order to help his father run a small, second-hand bookstall. In December 1941, war broke out in Asia-Pacific, and on 25th December Hong Kong was occupied by Japanese troops. Mr. Au was only thirteen years of age at the time, but found himself burdened by the responsibility of supporting his family. Nevertheless, in 1943 he formally started a business under his own name 'Ling Kee'.

Mr. Au quickly realised that self-cultivation was the only way forward, and his first step towards that end was to acquire a good dictionary and to study English assiduously. With his efforts, Mr. Au was able to attain an excellent command of both spoken and written English. His mastery of the Chinese language also enabled him to undertake complex translations and compose elegant Chinese couplets.

The well-known Chinese poet, translator and essayist Dai Wangshu lived in Hong Kong for several years. He wrote a number of essays, including some relating to the literary life of Hong Kong. The young Au Bak Ling featured in one of his articles titled 'Hong Kong's Second-hand Book Market'. 'At the lower end of one of the ladder streets, beside the theatre in Queen's Road Central, there were five stalls going up the steps from the main road. The first one on the left was called Ling Kee, and was run by a ten year-old child, whose father managed a scrap paper stall a little further down. This child was the youngest stall-holder, but he was very well-informed – he knew about Einstein's Theory of Relativity, as well as the works of the great German writer Goethe – and was already the most perspicacious,' he wrote.

Talent plus persistent self-improvement, transformed the young Au Bak Ling and changed his destiny. Mr. Au later expanded the Ling Kee business, ordering new books from England. The competition in the book trade was extremely fierce and he found it necessary to move into the retail market, where he managed to become the largest supplier of school textbooks in Hong Kong. It brought Mr. Au considerable satisfaction when, despite the fact that British publishing houses had dominated the market in Hong Kong for more than 120 years, Ling Kee became the major publisher of textbooks for Hong Kong students, many of whom have become leaders in Hong Kong today.

In November 1974, Mr. Au joined a fellow Rotarian in attending an auction preview. Until that time, his interest had only been in Chinese paintings of the Lingnan School. He became enthralled by the great variety of shapes, colours, and decorative styles of the porcelains on display.



THREE BARCELONA PRODIGIES TRAIN WITH THE FIRST-TEAM AHEAD OF GIRONA CLASH



Diary Times Desk : With the international break coming to an end, Barcelona are set to resume their campaign this weekend as they take on Girona.

However, coach Hansi Flick is dealing with an apparent injury crisis heading into this game, with the likes of Dani Olmo, Robert Lewandowski, and Ferran Torres joining the list of absentees during the break.

This has forced Flick to call up a host of youth players to training ahead of the Girona game; some of them may even end up featuring this weekend.

Three youngsters train with first-team

As revealed by the photos shared by Barcelona's social media team, at least three youth players have been seen training with the first team. That includes Dro, who could be poised for an appearance against Girona this weekend, especially with key creative players still out injured.

RELATION BETWEEN BARCELONA AND REAL MADRID POISED TO COLLAPSE SOON – HERE'S WHY

Diary Times Desk : In recent years, relations between Barcelona and Real Madrid have been surprisingly calm, largely on account of the two clubs' shared interests in the European Super League project.

However, that may soon change following Joan Laporta's decision to attend the EFC (formerly ECA) assembly in Rome last week.

It was a gathering that may well redefine Barcelona's European standing. There, Laporta was seen warmly greeting PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi, even sharing an embrace that symbolised reconciliation and a clear shift in tone from past hostilities.

Relations with Real Madrid may collapse soon
According to Diario SPORT, this renewed proximity with UEFA and Al-Khelaifi and, by extension, the PSG-UEFA camp, has not gone unnoticed in Madrid.

Real Madrid, now the only club still defending the Super League project, reportedly views Barcelona's shifting stance as a sign of separation.

FORMER BARCELONA FORWARD EXPLAINS HOW LAMINE DEALS WITH CRITICISM – 'THE GOOD THING ABOUT HIM IS...'

Diary Times Desk : Former Barcelona forward Pau Victor has shed light on the mindset of teenage sensation Lamine Yamal, revealing that the young star remains unfazed by external criticism despite being constantly in the spotlight.

Yamal, who is hoping to receive medical clearance ahead of Barcelona's weekend clash against Girona, continues to attract immense attention for his extraordinary performances.

The youngster's rise has been meteoric, and as his influence grows, so does the scrutiny from various quarters attempting to unsettle him.

How does Yamal deal with criticism? Speaking to Cadena SER's Què T'hi Jugues programme, Pau Victor, who shared the dressing room with Yamal last season and now plays for Braga, explained how little the noise around him matters.

"The good thing about him is that he ignores criticism and focuses on being himself.

"If they tell him not to do something, he will probably do it anyway just to get more criticism.

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.



JUDGE FINDS TWO POSSIBLE CRIMES IN GRIEZMANN SIGNING LINKED TO FORMER BARCELONA PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Josep Maria Bartomeu has been under fire lately following complaints by Joan Laporta for embezzlement of funds and constant corruption during his time as Barcelona president.

In line with the allegations, Bartomeu was summoned to court earlier this month, with police even finding some wrongdoings with regards to the transfer of Malcom.

Now, in yet another blow for Bartomeu, it appears there were discrepancies in the Antoine Griezmann transfer as well.

Judge's findings on Griezmann transfer
According to El Mundo (h/t Diario SPORT), the Court of Instruction Number 32 of Barcelona has ruled that the signing of Griezmann "must be added" to the ongoing case investigating alleged illegal commission payments under Bartomeu's presidency.

The judge reportedly sees signs of unfair administration and falsehood in the €15 million payment made to Atletico Madrid to halt their complaint regarding Barcelona's negotiations with Griezmann while he was still under contract.

BARCELONA FORWARD ADMITS HE IS STILL FEELING HAMSTRING DISCOMFORT AHEAD OF GIRONA CLASH

Diary Times Desk : According to SPORT journalist Carlos Monfort, Barcelona forward Ferran Torres has informed manager Hansi Flick that he continues to experience discomfort in his hamstring.

The situation means that his availability for the upcoming Girona clash remains uncertain and will be determined after tomorrow's training session.

It must be noted that the Blaugrana star had to leave the Spanish national team camp early due to "strained hamstring muscles in his left leg, with no associated injury," as confirmed by Barcelona's medical team.

The club later clarified that Ferran is not entirely sidelined but is undergoing specific treatment to aid his recovery.