

NEWS IN BRIEF

MHA ANNOUNCES JUDICIAL PROBE INTO SEPT 24 VIOLENCE IN LADAKH, ADMIN REIMPOSES BAN ON PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN LEH

Diary Times Desk :

A day ahead of the 'Peace March' by civil society in Ladakh to spotlight the prevailing crisis, the Union territory administration on Friday (October 17) issued an ex-parte order banning public gatherings in Leh district.

The ban on public gatherings was imposed on the day when the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced a judicial probe led by retired Supreme Court Justice B.S. Chauhan into the September 24 violence in which four civilian protesters were killed in firing by security forces in Leh. The judicial probe into the violence was one of the major demands of the Leh Apex Body (LAB) and the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA).

AT ZUBEEN GARG'S VILLAGE IN ASSAM, WHY RAHUL GANDHI RECALLED MOUNT KANCHENJUNGA VISIT

Diary Times Desk :

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi recalled a time when he saw Mount Kanchenjunga as he paid tribute to Assam's cultural icon Zubeen Garg today at the site where the singer's family performed the last rites in Guwahati's Sonapur.

Zubeen Garg often took the name 'Kanchenjunga' in his social commentary. His film 'Mission China' had a famous dialogue: "I don't have community, I don't have a religion, I am free, I am Kanchanjanga." Gandhi said he saw Mount Kanchenjunga for the first time when he was 17, and liked the mountain's "transparent and unshakeable" aura. "When I was 17 years old, I went for a mountaineering course in Sikkim. And every day when we would go for training, I would see Mount Kanchenjunga in front of us. And what I liked about the mountain was that it was honest, transparent, unshakeable and beautiful," the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha said. "Today, while I was coming, Gaurav [Gogoi] said Zubeen ji called himself Kanchenjunga, and immediately.

UNNIKRISHNAN POTTI

The remand report, filed before the court, states that Potti stole nearly 2 kg of gold from the premises of the revered temple. According to investigators, this was not because of custodial mishandling, but the result of a deliberate attempt to amass personal wealth, raising grave questions about the custodianship of temple wealth.

The report explains that Potti displayed temple artefacts at multiple locations for financial gain, undermining centuries-old customs and causing anguish to devotees. To replace the stolen precious metal, sponsors came forward and provided fresh gold, which Potti accepted as donations. And then, instead of using it for its intended purpose, he took possession of the gold.

Official Involvement

The most explosive section of the remand report points to the complicity of the Devaswom Board in 2019, headed by A Padmakumar. It accuses the board and nine senior officials of enabling Potti to remove gold ornaments from the sanctum sanctorum, violating High Court orders and temple rules.

Among those named, administrative officer Murari Babu and executive officer Sudheesh Kumar allegedly recorded the gold as copper in official registers, thereby masking the theft. Jayashree, the then Devaswom secretary, is accused of tampering with board minutes to facilitate Potti's unregulated access to ornaments. Other officials allegedly conspired by forging signatures on the Mahasar (the authoritative temple record) and deliberately failing to verify the weight of the ornaments before and after plating.

"CHANGING THE WAY OF STRUGGLE": TOP MAOIST TO NDTV AFTER LAYING DOWN ARMS

Diary Times Desk : The Bastar region, long synonymous with Maoist insurgency, witnessed a watershed moment on October 16 and 17. In what is being described as the largest-ever surrender in India's internal security history, over 150 Maoists, led by Central Committee member Rupesh alias Satish Kofa, laid down their arms and joined the mainstream.

But Rupesh, a veteran of more than four decades in the banned CPI (Maoist) organisation, insists this was not a surrender. Speaking exclusively to NDTV in Tadokot village, where the Maoists rested after crossing the Indravati River at Uspari Chat, Rupesh said, "We are giving up our weapons, but we are not surrendering. We are changing the way of struggle for the people."

Rupesh, who once led several key military operations in the Bastar division, revealed that disillusionment within the Maoist ranks had been growing for years. "Many senior leaders realised that it was no longer possible to fight the people's war with weapons," he said. He disclosed that former general secretary Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju had also suggested that the party must "lay down arms and decide future policies through democratic means." However, internal opposition and infighting shattered the organisation. "Basavaraju himself died in an encounter in Abujmad. That marked the beginning of the end," Rupesh said.

In a statement that underscores a fundamental ideological shift, Rupesh clarified that those who have now joined the mainstream will not become part of any government security operation. "We will not take up arms again, not even for the government. The fight for people's rights will now be constitutional. We will go among the people, listen to their problems, and work for them through lawful and peaceful means," he said.

CBI CONDUCTS RAIDS ACROSS PUNJAB, CHANDIGARH IN IPS OFFICER BRIBERY CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday conducted extensive searches across Punjab and Chandigarh in connection with a bribery case involving a Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Punjab Police.

Harcharan Singh Bhullar, a 2009-batch IPS officer posted as DIG Ropar Range, was earlier caught allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe through an associate from a businessman in exchange for "settling" an FIR. The CBI then conducted raids at multiple premises linked to the accused officer and his associate.

The raids led to the recovery of Rs 7.5 crore in cash from the DIG's Chandigarh residence, along with 2.5 kg of gold jewellery, 26 luxury watches and documents related to over 50 immovable properties suspected to be held in the names of family members and unnamed entities. Locker keys, details of multiple bank accounts, and four firearms with 100 live cartridges were also seized.

At the officer's farmhouse in Samrala, officials recovered Rs 5.7 lakh in cash, 108 bottles of liquor, and 17 live cartridges.

From the residence of the alleged middleman, the CBI seized Rs 21 lakh in cash along with documents.

CBI officials said the operation is part of an ongoing probe to uncover the full extent of the alleged corruption, wealth accumulation, and misuse of official position by the senior police officer.

IN SABARIMALA GOLD THEFT CASE, REMAND REPORT POINTS TO LARGER CONSPIRACY

Diary Times Desk : The nine-page remand report in the sensational Sabarimala gold theft case has laid bare the scale of the crime and also points to a broader conspiracy. The report, which has been accessed by NDTV, makes it clear that the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti, did not act alone. Instead, the theft was meticulously carried out with the active aid and collusion of at least nine officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) in 2019.

Potti, who had close connections with temple authorities, was produced before the first-class judicial magistrate court at Ranni in Kerala's Pathanamthitta district at noon on Friday and was remanded in police custody till October 30. The custody was sought by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the extent of the theft, the route of the door panels associated with the Dwarapalaka idols from which gold was stolen, and the involvement of the co-accused.

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**DELHI AIR REMAINS 'POOR' FOR FOURTH STRAIGHT DAY AHEAD OF DIWALI**

Diary Times Desk : Delhi's air quality remained in the 'poor' category for the fourth consecutive day on Friday as the city continued to reel under rising pollution levels in the run-up to Diwali.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the national capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 254 at 4 pm, placing it in the 'poor' category.

Among the neighbouring NCR cities, Ghaziabad recorded a 'very poor' AQI of 306, the worst in the country on Friday. Noida (278) and Gurugram (266) also registered 'poor' air quality, while Faridabad (105) remained in the 'moderate' range.

Ghaziabad had the most polluted air in India on Friday, while Noida, Gurugram and Delhi, all part of the Delhi-NCR cluster, figured among the country's top 10 most polluted cities at different positions.

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

Out of the 38 monitoring stations in the capital, five reported air quality in the 'very poor' category.

Among them, Anand Vihar recorded the highest AQI at 382, followed by Wazirpur (351), Bawana 315, Jahangirpuri (342), and Siri Fort 309, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

A similar air quality forecast has been issued for the coming days by the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi.

Transport emissions remained the largest contributor to Delhi's air pollution on Friday, accounting for 17.9 per cent of total emissions, based on data from the Decision Support System (DSS).

INDIA'S AIR PROWESS

TEJAS MKIA JET TAKES MAIDEN FLIGHT IN NASHIK IN BOOST TO INDIA'S AIR PROWESS

Diary Times Desk : In a boost to India's indigenous aerial prowess, the third Tejas LCA MkIA fighter jet from Hindustan Aeronautics' (HAL) new Nashik production line took its maiden flight on Friday in the presence of defence minister Rajnath Singh.

Singh inaugurated the third production line of LCA Tejas MkIA and the second production line of HTT-40 during the event.

Earlier, visuals showed a Sukhoi aircraft standing symbolically in salute to the LCA MkIA.

Meanwhile, HAL's new production line at Nashik is set to produce eight LCA MkIA aircraft annually initially, with scope for rapid expansion.

Combined with two other operational lines in Bengaluru, HAL's overall capacity would reach 24 fighters per year.

However, the Indian Air Force requires a national production capability of 30-40 jets annually to replace retiring legacy fleets.

While most of Nashik's upgraded infrastructure now supports the LCA and the indigenous HTT-40 basic trainer programmes, part of the facility remains allocated to Su-30MKI production to meet an upcoming order of 15 aircraft, according to a report in The Economic Times.

The Nashik facility's overhaul covers 1.3 million square feet, backed by an investment of Rs 500 crore and integration of advanced manufacturing technologies.

'NDA-NITISH MADE BIHAR FREE OF LALU-RABRI JUNGLE RAJ IN 20 YEARS': AMIT SHAH AT BIHAR RALLY

Diary Times Desk : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched the BJP's election campaign in Bihar's Saran district, claiming that the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government had ended the 'Lalu-Rabri jungle raj' and steered the state toward development over the past two decades.

Addressing a rally at Nariya in Saran district, Shah said that the NDA and Nitish Kumar's fight had been against the 'jungle raj' that existed during the tenure of former chief ministers Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi.

"If you want to know how Lalu-Rabri kept Bihar under their rule, there can be no better place than Chhapra. The NDA and Nitish Kumar's fight was against their 'jungle raj' back then, and now it is against that same ideology," Shah told the gathering.

He said the NDA would form the government with its biggest-ever majority in the last 20 years. "We are contesting the election under Nitish Kumar's leadership, while Prime Minister Modi is the central figure of the NDA," he asserted.

Shah said that Bihar would celebrate Diwali four times this year, but cautioned that even one RJD win could bring back lawlessness.

GURUGRAM WOMAN'S TRAFFIC RANT GOES VIRAL AMID
DIWALI GRIDLOCK



Diary Times Desk : As Diwali approaches, the traffic situation on Delhi-NCR roads continues to choke key routes. Meanwhile, a video of a woman from Gurugram, angry over traffic is going viral on social media. This video reflects the feelings of thousands of people who are stuck in similar traffic every day.

A user named Priyanka has shared this video on Instagram, in which the woman is seen sitting in her car and looks very upset due to the heavy traffic jam. She says that she doesn't understand what has happened to Gurugram. The woman says that the journey what used to be normal earlier, has now become very difficult due to Diwali. She raises questions as to why people who go to the office every day are now taking two and a half to four hours to travel. She also says that it took her four hours to reach home last evening. Apart from this, the woman says that she had left at 8:30 in the morning to attend the office Diwali party, but till 11 o'clock she remained stuck in traffic and the navigation app still showed 43 minutes of travel left. She requests that the office management should show some sympathy and allow the employees to work from home, as there is no point in spending four hours in traffic.

GUJARAT DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER SWORN IN, RIVABA JADEJA
SURPRISE CABINET PICK

Diary Times Desk : In a reshuffle of Gujarat's council of ministers, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Friday inducted 19 new ministers, expanding his cabinet to a total strength of 26, and elevated Harsh Sanghavi, the state's junior home minister and a two-term MLA from Surat, to the post of Deputy Chief Minister. The ceremony, held at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar today, was administered by Governor Acharya Devvrat, who oversaw the oath of office for the newly inducted and elevated ministers. Sanghavi, who represents the Majura constituency in Surat, has been one of the party's prominent young leaders and was previously serving as Minister of State for Home. While all 16 ministers in the Patel cabinet resigned on Thursday in anticipation of the reshuffle, six were retained in the new lineup - Kanubhai Patel, Rushikesh Patel, Kunvarji Bavalia, Harsh Sanghavi, Praful Pansheriya, and Purshottam Solanki. The Chief Minister did not accept their resignations. Among them, only Sanghavi and Pansheriya -- the latter now holding the position of Minister of State with independent charge -- took fresh oaths during Friday's ceremony. The reshuffle has brought several new and returning faces into the cabinet, including Jitu Vaghani, Arjun Modhwadia.

JHARKHAND: ADVOCATE FACES CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS
FOR 'DON'T CROSS THE LIMIT' REMARK TO JUDGE



Diary Times Desk : The Jharkhand High Court on Friday initiated Suo-moto contempt of court proceedings against advocate Mahesh Tewari, for his 'don't cross the limit' remark during a heated exchange between him and Justice Rajesh Kumar on October 16. In a video, which went viral on social media, advocate Mahesh Tewari could be heard saying, "Sir, please don't try to humiliate any person.....The country is burning. The country is burning with the judiciary." A five-bench court, comprising Chief Justice Tarlok Singh Chauhan, Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad, Justice Rongon Mukhopadhyay, Justice Ananda Sen and Justice Rajesh Shankar, convened to address the matter.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES OR WWE
WRESTLERS? NO-HOLDS
BARRED BRAWL AT TRAIN
STATION

Diary Times Desk : In a scene that has stunned commuters and gone viral across social media, a group of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) employees were caught on camera engaging in a violent brawl on the platform of Delhi's Nizamuddin Railway Station.

The confrontation quickly descended into chaos, with dustbins thrown, belts brandished, and punches exchanged in full public view, reminiscent of a WWE Royal Rumble match. The incident, which unfolded at one of Delhi's busiest railway hubs, shows uniformed IRCTC staff first in a heated argument before the altercation spiralled into an all-out brawl. Passengers can be seen in the background trying to move away from the scene, some taking videos on their phones, while others stood frozen as the scuffle intensified.

SUPREME COURT FORMS COMMITTEE TO
ENSURE EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITIES,
INCLUSIVE MEDICAL CARE FOR
TRANSGENDER PERSONS

Diary Times Desk : In an important verdict augmenting rights of transgender persons, the Supreme Court on Friday constituted a dedicated committee headed by a retired High Court judge to enable and facilitate equal opportunities at work, inclusive medical care and protection for gender non-conforming persons. A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan said that the judgment hopes to secure the future of third gender. The committee will be headed by retired Justice Asha Menon and will comprise transgender activists Grace Banu and Akai Padmashali, Gaurav Mandal, CLPR Bengaluru member, Dr Sanjay Sharma, and the amicus will be Senior Advocate Jayna Kothari.

PIL BEFORE PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH
COURT SEEKS CBI PROBE INTO SUICIDE OF
Y PURAN KUMAR IPS

Diary Times Desk : A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition has been filed before the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the death of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Y Puran Kumar. The petition filed by one Navneet Kumar from Ludhiana, who is the President of an NGO, came up before a Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry. However, the Court adjourned the PIL after the counsel representing the petitioner sought time to make submissions. Kumar allegedly shot himself dead at his residence in Chandigarh on October 7. In his suicide note, he blamed various officers including Haryana DGP Shatrueet Kapur and then Rohtak SP Narendra Bijarniya for the extreme step. Kumar alleged caste-based discrimination and targeted harassment. Kumar's wife is senior IAS officer Amneet P Kumar. She has been at the forefront demanding justice for her husband, who was from the Dalit community.

Following a hue and cry, both DGP Kapur and Bijarniya have been temporarily removed from their positions. Adding to the controversy, another police official Sandeep Lathar, who had arrested an aide of Kumar in another case, subsequently died by suicide this week. He is stated to have leveled corruption charges against Kumar and also blamed the IPS officer's family members.

MADRAS HIGH COURT
NOTICE TO CENTRE, TAMIL
NADU ON PLEA TO ADD
TVK'S VIJAY AS ACCUSED
IN STAMPEDE CASE

Diary Times Desk : The Madras High Court today sent notices to the Election Commission of India, Tamil Nadu government, and the state top cop on a Public Interest Litigation seeking to alter the FIR in the Karur stampede case and include actor-politician Vijay, chief of the Tamizhaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK), as an accused.

The petition also seeks a ban on involving children in political rallies and a direction to evolve standard operating procedures for political gatherings.

The Bench of Chief Justice MM Srivastava and Justice G Arulmurugan, before which the case came up, directed that the plea be listed along with similar petitions seeking guidelines for political roadshows. The Bench said all such petitions will be heard together by a special division to be constituted based on the Supreme Court's directions following the Karur tragedy.

"INDIAN PM LIKELY TO BE
LEADER OF FREE WORLD IN
40-50 YEARS": TONY
ABBOTT

Diary Times Desk : The 21st century belongs to India, and the Prime Minister of the country - whoever that might be four or five decades down the line - could take the mantle of 'the leader of the free world' from the President of the United States, former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said Friday at the NDTV World Summit 2025.

He also called on Delhi to play its role as one of the world's new superpowers and as a 'democratic counterweight' to China in the Asia-Pacific region and a 'strong, reliable partner' for Australia.

Trade deals, such as the one India signed with Australia in 2022 and with the United Kingdom last month are signs the democratic world is shifting from China, he said.

In a hard-hitting interaction Friday, Abbott offered an overview of India's ties with China, Pakistan, and the US, and said Delhi holds the key to check Beijing's ambitions to 'dominate the world'. "They want to be hegemonic power... and this spells trouble for all of China's neighbours, as well as the world."

"India is a counterweight to China. It is now the most populous country. You go to any Indian city... there is massive infrastructure push.

MAN ARRESTED FOR THREATENING
KARNATAKA MINISTER PRIYANK KHARGE OVER
RSS BAN



Diary Times Desk : The Karnataka Police have arrested the man who threatened Priyank Kharge, the Minister for RDPR, IT and BT, over his proposal to ban the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in public places.

The accused was arrested in Latur, Maharashtra, on Thursday.

The accused has been identified as Danappa Naroni, also known as Danesh, a resident of Solapur district in Maharashtra. The arrest was carried out in a joint operation by the Kalaburagi district police and Bengaluru Police. According to officials, after making a threatening and abusive phone call to Minister Kharge, the accused left his native place and was staying in Latur.

SC VOICES CONCERN AS SENIORS
DIGITALLY 'ARRESTED' IN RS 1.05 CRORE
SCAM, SEEKS CENTRE'S RESPONSE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday took serious note of the digital arrest of a senior citizen couple in Haryana's Ambala on the basis of forged orders of the court and probe agencies by fraudsters to extort Rs 1.05 crore.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi flagged the rising number of digital arrest cases across the country and sought the response of the Centre, CBI in a case registered as suo motu after the 73-year-old woman wrote to Chief Justice of India B R Gavai.

The bench said forging apex court, high court orders, signatures of judges to digitally arrest innocent people, including senior citizens, strikes at the bottom of trust and faith of people in judicial institutions. "The fabrication of judicial orders bearing forged signatures of judges strikes at the very foundation of the public trust in the judicial system besides the rule of law.

BENGALURU STUDENT HEADED FOR EXAM APPROACHED FROM
BEHIND, THROAT SLIT

Diary Times Desk : In a shocking incident, a 21-year-old college student was brutally murdered in broad daylight near the Srirampura railway track in Bengaluru earlier today.

The victim, identified as Yamini Priya, was a B.Pharm student at a college in the Hosakerehalli area of the Karnataka capital.

She is sad to have left home around 7 am, saying she had an exam and was on her way back home when the attack took place.

As she was walking near the Mantri Mall area, a youth is said to have approached her from behind, slit her throat, and fled the scene. Locals who witnessed the incident alerted the police, the Srirampura police, who rushed to the spot and conducted an inspection and collected evidence from the scene of the crime

The police have launched a manhunt for the accused, and the investigation is underway.



INDIA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD
FIRST POLICY HELPING ALL: SRI
LANKA PM AT NDTV WORLD
SUMMIT

Diary Times Desk : Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya said today that India's neighbourhood first policy is helping all the neighbouring countries.

"India's rise, coupled with its inclusive approach, provides an anchor of stability. For Sri Lanka, this partnership embodies a shared belief that we achieve more and rise stronger when we rise together," she said.

Delivering the keynote address at the NDTV World Summit on "Steering change in uncertain times", she also thanked India for its support during the economic crisis in 2022.

India, she said, "redefined leadership" during the crisis. "This support is a lasting reminder that India's help at our hour of need is remembered and deeply valued by our people," she said.

As part of its "Neighbourhood First" policy during the 2022 economic crisis in Sri Lanka, New Delhi had extended a Line of Credit of \$500 million in February that year for purchase of petroleum products from India.

"NO FOUL PLAY SUSPECTED":
SINGAPORE POLICE ON ZUBEEN
GARG'S DEATH

Diary Times Desk : A month after popular Assamese singer Zubeen Garg's death, the Singapore police said they "do not suspect any foul play", adding that the investigation is still underway.

The cops, in a statement, urged people not to spread "unverified information" over the singer's death.

"The Singapore Police Force (SPF) is aware of speculation and false information circulating online regarding the circumstances of Mr Zubeen Garg's death. The case is currently being investigated by the SPF, in accordance with Singapore's Coroners Act 2010.

Based on preliminary investigations, the SPF does not suspect foul play," the statement read.

According to the Singapore police, the completion of the investigation may take up to another three months.

TRUMP'S PLAN FOR A SECOND MEETING WITH PUTIN UNDERCUTS UKRAINE PUSH

Diary Times Desk :

President Donald Trump has his sights once again on ending the Ukraine conflict, announcing another meeting with Russian Vladimir Putin after a first summit in Alaska failed to yield progress.

The president framed the decision, announced after he spoke with Putin for more than two hours Thursday, as a plan to bring peace at last to a conflict that he once claimed he'd solve within a day. But it also deflates any pressure that had been building on Putin in recent weeks as Trump vented frustration with the Russian leader's foot-dragging to end the war.

Trump's call with Putin also preempted a meeting he's set to have on Friday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Trump had adopted an increasingly warmer tone toward Zelensky in recent weeks as he cooled on Putin - a stark change from his more frigid stance toward the Ukrainian leader earlier in his administration, including a public dressing down in the Oval Office earlier this year.

ISRAELI MACCABI TEL AVIV FOOTBALL FANS BARRED FROM EUROPA LEAGUE GAME IN UK

Diary Times Desk : Fans of the Israeli football team Maccabi Tel Aviv have been barred from attending a Europa League game against Aston Villa in the United Kingdom next month because of security concerns, the English club said.

Birmingham City's Safety Advisory Group (SAG) - the body responsible for issuing safety certificates for matches at Villa Park, where the game is to be played - informed Aston Villa that Maccabi Tel Aviv away fans will not be permitted to attend.

Aston Villa confirmed in a statement on Thursday that the "club has been informed that no away fans may attend the UEFA Europa League match with Maccabi Tel Aviv on Thursday, November 6, following an instruction from the Safety Advisory Group".

"Police have advised the SAG that they have public safety concerns outside the stadium bowl and the ability to deal with any potential protests on the night," the club said.

"Based on our professional judgement, we believe this measure will help mitigate risks to public safety," the police force said.

US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SUES TEAM TRUMP OVER \$100,000 H-1B VISA FEE



Diary Times Desk : The US Chamber of Commerce is suing the Trump administration for imposing a \$100,00 annual fee for new H-1B visa applications, claiming the fee is unlawful and would significantly harm US businesses.

In a federal lawsuit filed Thursday in Washington DC, the Chamber asks the court to declare that President Donald Trump exceeded the executive branch's authority by imposing the fee and bloc federal government agencies from enforcing it.

H-1B visas are meant for high-skilled jobs that tech companies find hard to fill and are primarily associated with tech workers from India. Big tech companies are the biggest user of the visa, and nearly three-quarters of those approved are from India. But there are critical workers, like teachers and doctors, who fall outside that category.

MI5 CHIEF 'FRUSTRATED' OVER COLLAPSE OF CHINA SPY CASE

Diary Times Desk : Chinese state operatives present a daily national security threat to the UK, the head of MI5 Sir Ken McCallum has said.

In a speech, he said MI5 had intervened operationally to disrupt Chinese activity of national security concern in the past week.

Addressing a row over the collapse of a case involving alleged spying on behalf of China in the UK, Sir Ken said the alleged activity was disrupted by MI5 and that it was "frustrating when prosecutions fall through". The government and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) are facing questions over the collapse of the case. The CPS dropped the case last month after deciding the evidence did not show China was a threat to national security. But witness statements from the UK's deputy national security adviser Matthew Collins - published late on Wednesday - are clear that the Chinese are carrying out spying operations against the UK.

In the documents, he said China was carrying out "large scale espionage" against the UK and was "the biggest state-based threat to the country's economic security".

EX-DONALD TRUMP NSA JOHN BOLTON INDICTED: ALL ABOUT THE 18 CHARGES

Diary Times Desk : John Bolton, former US National Security Adviser under President Donald Trump, has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Maryland. He faces 18 charges: eight for sharing national defence secrets and ten for keeping them.

The charges come from Bolton sending more than 1,000 pages of "diary" notes about his work in the White House to two family members who did not have security clearances. These notes included sensitive national defence details, some classified as top secret.

Who is John Bolton?

Bolton, 76, served as US National Security Adviser from 2018 to 2019 and has held other high-level government positions, including US Ambassador to the United Nations. Known as a hawk on foreign policy, he later became one of Trump's most vocal critics, writing a memoir, The Room Where It Happened, critical of the president.

MUHAMMAD YUNUS CALLS ON PARTIES TO SIGN CHARTER DECIDING BANGLADESH'S FUTURE

Diary Times Desk : Several major political parties in Bangladesh will sign the much-discussed July National Charter 2025 on Friday, a document meant to form a consensus on the path to democratic renewal. But there are a few parties that will not support the document commissioned by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. Among them is the National Citizen Party (NCP), which emerged out of the violent moment last year that dethroned Sheikh Hasina after her 15 years of iron-grip rule.

NCP claims that the document prepared by the National Consensus Commission-- a seven-member umbrella body formed by the Yunus government in February-- lacks a legal basis. The party says backing the charter would be meaningless without ironing out key issues regarding its full implementation, such as the fate of reform proposals-- recommended by six reform commissions-- with notes of dissent and the question of a referendum to ensure their public endorsement.

The party doesn't seem to be budging despite the eleventh-hour intervention by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. "NCP believes that this signing ceremony will not provide any legal foundation. It will remain confined only to formality. NCP has repeatedly emphasised the necessity of legal legitimacy.

INDIA CALLS FOR UN PEACEKEEPING REFORMS AMID SHIFTING WAR TACTICS

Diary Times Desk : A new paradigm is needed for UN peacekeeping missions to effectively deal with the changing nature of conflicts and security challenges, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Thursday.

He said the peacekeepers must be prepared to protect civilians from harm, respond to humanitarian crises, and yet operate in environments where the "enemy wears no uniform and respects no rules".

Jaishankar was speaking at a conference of chiefs of countries contributing troops to UN peacekeeping missions.

He argued that there is a need for reevaluation of various aspects of peacekeeping as the nature of conflicts has changed.

"The clear lines of state-on-state warfare have been blurred. We often face on the ground, a complex and ambiguous matrix of non-state actors, of armed groups, and of terrorist organisations," he said.



TRUMP HASN'T CLOSED THE DOOR ON SENDING TOMAHAWK MISSILES TO UKRAINE



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump did not take the possibility of the US sending long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine off the table during his call with Russian President Vladimir Putin, sources familiar with their conversation told CNN. But Trump is also not expected to commit to providing the potentially game changing American-made weapons in his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House on Friday, two of the sources said, though they cautioned that things can always change once the president is alone in a room with the Ukrainians. The US president, in both public and private, has appeared more willing to allow Ukraine to obtain the long-range missiles in recent weeks, US officials said. The administration has drawn up plans to provide the weapons to Ukraine, the officials said, in case Trump gives the order.

A SUICIDE BOMBER, MILITANTS
ATTACK PAKISTANI ARMY FACILITY
NEAR AFGHAN BORDER

Diary Times Desk : A suicide car bomber backed by the Pakistani Taliban attacked a sprawling compound of security forces in Pakistan's northwest near the Afghan border Friday, triggering an intense shootout that left three militants dead, police said. The attack took place in Mir Ali, a city in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Irfan Ali, a local police official, said. The impact of the bombing damaged nearby homes, he said. It was unclear whether there were any troop casualties, and there was no immediate comment from the military. The attack came just days after Pakistan and Afghanistan agreed to a ceasefire.

LAWRENCE BISHNOI GANG TARGETS
CANADIAN BUSINESSMAN'S
RESTAURANT AFTER FIRING AT KAPIL
SHARMA'S CAFE

Diary Times Desk : Hours after the third firing incident at Kapil Sharma's Kap's Cafe in Canada's Surrey, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang again targeted a Canadian businessman by firing shots at their restaurant in Brampton on Thursday. Both incidents took place a few hours apart.

A gangster named Goldy Dhillon took responsibility for the fresh firing, claiming the businessman needed to be taught some manners, suggesting the firing had something to do with the man's recent remarks. "We do not have any financial matter with this person, but he needed to teach some manners."

WHAT'S BEHIND PAKISTAN'S LATEST CRACKDOWN ON RELIGIOUS PARTY TLP?



Diary Times Desk : The provincial government of Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, is seeking federal approval to ban the far-right religious party Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) amid a violent crackdown on the group's protesters this week.

In a meeting chaired by Maryam Nawaz Sharif, the province's chief minister and niece of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, officials approved what they described as "historic" and "extraordinary" decisions. The chief minister did not name the TLP, but a statement from her office said the ban would be sought against an "extremist" party, and added that those involved in inciting violence.

TRUMP THREATENS TO "GO
IN AND KILL" HAMAS IF

GAZA KILLINGS CONTINUE

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump on Thursday warned Hamas "we will have no choice but to go in and kill them" if internal bloodshed persists in Gaza.

The grim warning from Trump came after he previously downplayed the internal violence in the territory since a ceasefire and hostage deal between Israel and Hamas went into effect last week in the two-year war.

Trump said Tuesday that Hamas had taken out "a couple of gangs that were very bad" and had killed a number of gang members. "That didn't bother me much, to be honest with you," he said.

ISRAEL DELAYS RAFAH
CROSSING REOPENING AS

GAZA AWAITS MUCH-
NEEDED AID SURGE

Diary Times Desk : Israel has again delayed the reopening of Gaza's Rafah crossing with Egypt to allow for the movement of people, with Foreign Minister Gideon Saar saying it could be open on Sunday, as Israeli attacks killed at least three Palestinians in southern Gaza.

In a statement on Thursday, COGAT – an Israeli military unit that is responsible for civilian matters in the occupied territory – said coordination was under way with Egypt to set a date for reopening the Rafah crossing for movement of people after completing the necessary preparations.

COGAT said the Rafah crossing would remain closed to aid, claiming that the truce deal did not include its reopening. All humanitarian supplies bound for Gaza, it said, would instead pass through the Karem Abu Salem (called Kerem Shalom in Israel) crossing after Israeli security inspections.

Italian news agency ANSA quoted Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Saar as saying Rafah will probably be reopened on Sunday, without providing more details.

The crossing was due to be opened on Wednesday under the terms of the Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement that took effect last week.

For Palestinians in Gaza, the Rafah crossing was long the only connection to the outside world and also the only exit that was not directly controlled by Israel. Last May, Israeli forces raided the crossing, seized control of it and razed its buildings.

For the first time in 20 years, Israeli forces directly controlled the border crossing and deployed soldiers all across the Philadelphi Corridor, where they remain today.

As part of the US ceasefire deal, which calls for their gradual withdrawal, Israeli forces remain in approximately 53 percent of Gaza, including most of Rafah, raising questions about its use.

TRUMP TO MEET XI JINPING AMID TRADE TENSIONS WITH CHINA, ACKNOWLEDGES 100% TARIFF UNSUSTAINABLE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump confirmed that he is set to meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in two weeks. This comes days after Trump stated that there was "no reason" to meet Jinping. The announcement signals a possible easing of trade tensions between Washington and Beijing. After announcing a 100 per cent tariff on all Chinese imports last week, Trump acknowledged the measure may not be sustainable in the long run. "It's not sustainable, but that's what the number is...They forced me to do that," Trump told Fox Business Network.

Recent tensions between US and China

The statement comes after a volatile few days of exchanges between the two countries. Last week, Trump accused Beijing of trying to "hold the world captive" through new export controls on rare earth materials - minerals crucial for electric vehicles.



WHY INDIANS WON'T BE ELIGIBLE FOR US GREEN CARD LOTTERY THIS YEAR

Diary Times Desk : Indian nationals have been excluded from the United States Diversity Visa (DV) lottery, at least until 2028. The popular visa programme, also known as the green card lottery, aims at diversifying the immigrant population in America by selecting applicants primarily from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States over the past five years. It only allows participation of citizens from countries that have sent fewer than 50,000 immigrants over the past five years. India, with its high immigration volume to the US over the years, exceeded the programme's eligibility threshold, automatically disqualifying it from the lottery. In 2021, 93,450 Indians immigrated to the US. The number was 127,010 in 2022, which was more than the total number of South American (99,030), African (89,570), or European (75,610) migrants moving to the US. In 2023, 78,070 Indians immigrated to the US. This figure automatically leaves Indians ineligible for DV lotteries till 2028.

LANDMARK GLOBAL SHIPPING DEAL IN TATTERS AFTER US PRESSURE

Diary Times Desk : A landmark deal to cut global shipping emissions has been abandoned after Saudi Arabia and the US succeeded in ending the talks.

More than 100 countries had gathered in London to approve a deal first agreed in April, which would have seen shipping become the world's first industry to adopt internationally mandated targets to reduce emissions.

But President Trump had called the plan a "green scam" and representatives of his administration had threatened countries with tariffs if they had voted in favour.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio declared the outcome a "huge win" for Trump.

But reflecting the pressure countries faced, the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organisation Arsenio Dominguez issued a "plea" for this not to be repeated.

CHIEF OF STAFF OF YEMEN HOUTHİ REBEL'S MILİTARY DİES İN İSRAELİ AİRSTRİKE

Diary Times Desk : An Israeli airstrike targeting the top leaders of Yemen's Houthi rebels in August killed the chief of staff of its military, officials said Thursday, further escalating tensions between the group and Israel even as a ceasefire holds in the Gaza Strip.

The Houthis have acknowledged the killing of Maj. Gen. Muhammad Abdul Karim al-Ghamari, who had been sanctioned by the United Nations over his role in the country's decade long war.

Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said al-Ghamari died of wounds he suffered in the attack and had joined "his fellow members of the axis of evil in the depths of hell."

Katz referred to the strike as "the strike of the firstborn," likely a reference to a series of strikes Israel conducted on Aug. 28. That attack killed Houthi Prime Minister Ahmed al-Rahawi and others. However, analysts suggested al-Ghamari may have been wounded in a different attack targeting the secretive group.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also acknowledged Israel killing al-Ghamari.

"Another chief of staff in the line of terror chiefs who aimed to harm us was eliminated," Netanyahu said.

"We will reach all of them."

In a statement carried by the Houthi-controlled SABA news agency.



NEPAL PM BRIEFS FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, A MONTH AFTER FORMATION OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT

Diary Times Desk : Nepal's Interim Government Prime Minister Sushila Karki on Friday held a high-level diplomatic briefing one month after the formation of the government at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In her briefing, the interim prime minister assured the diplomats that the Himalayan Nation is steadily returning to normalcy, as the government intensifies efforts to restore stability, promote transparency, and combat corruption.

"The situation in Nepal is gradually returning to normalcy. As a testament to the resilience of our people. We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing this positive message with the wider international community. Excellencies, we would deeply appreciate the understanding, cooperation, and friendship that your governments and missions have extended towards Nepal and the Nepali people," Karki said in her briefing.

The Prime Minister also briefed diplomats on the latest update regarding the overall situation in Nepal and informed diplomats about the upcoming elections to the House of Representatives, scheduled for March 5, 2026.

TENSIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND AFGHANİSTAN SPIKE AS TRUCE İS EXTENDED

Diary Times Desk : Tensions are mounting between Pakistan and Afghanistan amid reports of a brutal border attack on the former's troops, as a fragile truce between the neighbours, and once allies, has been extended for another 48 hours.

An initial 48-hour ceasefire between the two sides came into effect this week after days of bloody cross-border attacks. As it was set to expire at 13:00 GMT on Friday, both sides agreed to an extension, diplomats in Pakistan and Afghanistan said.

As the end of the initial truce approached, Pakistani police official Irfan Ali said a suicide car bomber backed by Pakistan Taliban, known by the acronym TTP, attacked a military compound in Mir Ali, a city in North Waziristan district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Accounts of losses suffered during the attack varied.

The official, quoted by news agency The Associated Press.

MAKING THE INDO-MEDITERRANEAN CLOSER AND MORE INTERCONNECTED



Diary Times Desk : The Indo-Mediterranean arc stretching from India across the Gulf and Levant to Europe is one of the most strategic arteries of globalization. Through it flows a large share of the world's goods, energy and data. The Suez Canal remains its narrowest and most fragile chokepoint. The past two years have shown how brittle this system truly is: Israel's war on Gaza triggered by Hamas's October 7 attacks disrupted normalisation processes, while Houthi missile and drone attacks near Bab el-Mandeb forced container lines to reroute. By early 2025, transits through the Suez Canal had dropped by more than 60% year-on-year, and revenues fell sharply, illustrating how destabilization in one corridor cascades across the system: Egypt's 2025 canal revenues, too, dropped over 60% compared to the prior year. In parallel, undersea cable cuts in February 2024 and September 2025 disrupted multiple Europe-Asia routes.

BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY:
DIWALI'S FESTIVE SPIRIT
TAKES OVER LONDON

Diary Times Desk : On a crisp Sunday afternoon in mid-October, Trafalgar Square shimmered with saffron, music, and expectation. London's flagship civic space had once again become the stage for Diwali on the Square, the city's official Festival of Lights, held this year on Sunday, October 12.

From the opening dance to evening workshops, it affirmed that Indian traditions are alive and resonant in London's public fabric.

The programme included a 200-strong dance troupe, main-stage performances from across Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities, sari-tying workshops, yoga sessions, a children's zone, and stalls serving vegan and vegetarian South Asian food.

As the festivities unfolded, Mayor Sadiq Khan spoke of the event's significance: "Diwali On The Square is a wonderful opportunity for Londoners and visitors to come together to celebrate light overcoming darkness, hope overcoming hardship, and unity in our diversity... I am proud that this free, family-friendly, inclusive celebration will once again unite people of all backgrounds in the heart of our capital to spread the message of peace and hope."

TRUMP WARNS US MAY 'GO IN
AND KILL HAMAS' IF ATTACKS
CONTINUE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Thursday warned that the United States may be forced to take military action against Hamas if the group continues targeting civilians in Gaza.

Trump posted on Truth Social, "If Hamas continues to kill people in Gaza, which was not the Deal, we will have no choice but to go in and kill them."

The warning comes a day after Trump addressed the ongoing situation in Gaza, focusing on Hamas' search for the remaining deceased hostages and the broader implications of the US-brokered peace agreement. Taken together, Wednesday's remarks on hostages and the peace deal help explain Thursday's stark warning, linking humanitarian concerns over civilians and hostages with the possibility of stronger US action if attacks continue.

CANADA, US AIRPORTS HACKED WITH
PRO-HAMAS, ANTI-TRUMP MESSAGES

Diary Times Desk : Hackers took over the public address systems on Tuesday at four airports, three in Canada and one in the United States, to broadcast messages praising Hamas and criticizing President Donald Trump, according to officials and news reports. An "advertisement streaming service" at the Kelowna International Airport in British Columbia "was briefly compromised and unauthorized content was shared," according to the Kelowna Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The RCMP said it is investigating the hack with other agencies and declined to provide further details. Hackers broadcast messages in a foreign language and music over the PA system at Victoria International Airport in British Columbia, according to an airport spokesperson. The hackers breached third-party software to access the PA system, and the airport switched to an internal system to regain control, the spokesperson said.

KREMLIN SAYS PUTIN-TRUMP SUMMIT
MAY HAPPEN WITHIN TWO WEEKS,
BUT THERE'S A LOT TO DO FIRST

Diary Times Desk : U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin have reportedly held a telephone conversation focused heavily on the conflict in Ukraine. The Kremlin confirmed that President Putin informed Mr. Trump that Russia remains open to a settlement in Ukraine. During the call, Mr. Putin also very clearly set out Russia's stance regarding the possible delivery of Tomahawk cruise missiles to Ukraine. Despite confirming the discussion points, the Kremlin stated that the content of the phone call must remain out of the media. The Kremlin said on Friday that a summit between presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump could take place within two weeks, or a little later, but that there was a great deal to be worked out before a date could be set.

BELGIAN COURT CLEARS FUGITIVE JEWELLER MEHUL CHOKSI'S EXTRADITION
TO INDIA

Diary Times Desk : A court in Antwerp on Friday cleared the extradition of fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi, noting that his arrest by the Belgian authorities on India's request was valid, officials in the know of the development said. The order has come as a strong validation for India's case seeking his extradition, with Choksi having the option of appealing against the decision in a superior court in Belgium, they said. "The order has come in our favour. The court has termed his arrest by the Belgian authorities on India's request valid. The first legal step in getting him extradited is now clear," a senior official said. Belgian prosecutors were aided by Indian officials from the External Affairs Ministry and the CBI in putting forth strong arguments on Choksi's alleged crime in orchestrating a Rs 13,000 crore scam in the Punjab National Bank in collusion with his nephew Nirav Modi. After hearing the Belgian prosecutors and Choksi's defence lawyers during the hearings in mid-September, the court concluded that his arrest was valid. Choksi (66) was arrested in Belgium on April 11 on the basis of the extradition request sent by the CBI, they said. His bail applications have been rejected by different courts in that country. India has also assured the Belgian authorities that if extradited, Choksi would be housed in Barrack No. 12 at the Arthur Road jail in Mumbai, with no chance of overcrowding or solitary confinement, as at least one more economic offender is expected to be housed in his cell.



The Union Home Ministry informed the Belgian authorities through a September 4 communique that the personal living space for each inmate in Barack No. 12 is in line with and fully meets the minimum space requirement of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT) of Europe.

OPENAI'S SORA BANS
MARTIN LUTHER KING
JR. DEEPPAKES AFTER
HIS FAMILY
COMPLAINED

Diary Times Desk :

OpenAI announced that it has "paused" users' ability to generate videos of Martin Luther King Jr. on its artificial intelligence video tool Sora, following backlash over "disrespectful depictions."

"While there are strong free speech interests in depicting historical figures, OpenAI believes public figures and their families should ultimately have control over how their likeness is used," the company said in a Thursday statement posted on X. "Authorized representatives or estate owners can request that their likeness not be used in Sora cameos."

The change comes a few weeks after the launch of Sora 2, which lets users make realistic-looking AI-generated videos using real and historical people. Critics charge that it's contributing to an era of misinformation and "AI slop" that is blurring the lines between what's real and what's fake.

IS AI REALLY MAKING
ELECTRICITY BILLS
HIGHER? HERE'S WHAT
THE EXPERTS SAY

Diary Times Desk :

Lindsey Martin's electricity bill reached \$314 in July, the highest bill she had received this year until that point, she said on TikTok. In the video's more than 4,000 comments, many users reported similar power-bill spikes.

Martin's bill jumped even higher in August to \$372, a notable leap from around \$150 two to three years ago.

"I thought that was so high, I could not believe my bill was \$150," Martin, a Kentucky-based registered nurse, told CNN over the phone. "And now I wish my bill was \$150." Martin isn't alone. Residential electricity costs are on the rise, according to data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). The average price of electricity in America has increased 13% since 2022, with the cost of retail electricity expected to grow faster than the rate of inflation, the report says. Some regions, like the Pacific, Middle Atlantic and New England, could see even higher increases than the national average.

INSTAGRAM WILL SOON LET PARENTS STOP TEENS FROM CHATTING
WITH AI CHARACTERS

Diary Times Desk : Instagram will launch new safety features for teens, including the ability for parents to prevent their kids from chatting with the platform's AI characters, parent-company Meta announced Friday. It's one of several new safety features from Meta and OpenAI meant to combat growing concerns about how AI could impact teens' mental health.

Parents will be able to either turn off teens' access to individual chats with AI characters or just block access to specific characters, the social media giant said in a blog post. The app will also show parents information about the topics teens are discussing with AI characters. The company said it's building the controls now and users will start seeing them early next year.

The move comes after Meta and the tech industry more broadly have grappled with criticisms from parents and lawmakers that online platforms aren't doing enough to protect children online. Concerns have also been raised about whether people are relying on AI for emotional support and companionship.



SMARTMATIC INDICTED IN FOREIGN BRIBERY CASE, POSSIBLY
ENDANGERING ITS LAWSUITS AGAINST FOX NEWS AND GIULIANI

Diary Times Desk : The Justice Department on Thursday filed foreign bribery charges against Smartmatic, the voting technology company that is suing Fox News and other prominent pro-Trump figures for defamation over their promotion of 2020 election lies.

The bribery and money laundering charges against Smartmatic arose from an existing case filed last year against some of its current and former executives, including its founder. The indictment relates to an alleged \$1 million bribe paid to the top election official in the Philippines to secure lucrative contracts for that country's 2016 elections. The indictment doesn't include any allegations of voter fraud or election-rigging against Smartmatic. The news could be catastrophic for Smartmatic, potentially weakening its hand in pending 2020 election-related defamation lawsuits against Fox News.



WALL STREET HAS BEEN WORRIED ABOUT BAD LOANS FOR WEEKS.
NOW THOSE FEARS ARE SPREADING

Diary Times Desk : Several financial groups are wrestling with bad loans, raising worries on Wall Street of more to come.

For weeks, investors have focused on Jefferies Financial Group, an investment bank that has at least \$45 million worth of exposure to First Brands, an auto-parts supplier that filed for bankruptcy last month.

But on Thursday, they turned some of their attention to two regional banks, Western Alliance Bancorp and Zions Bancorp, after concerns about some of their loans as well.

All three banks' stocks suffered their steepest single-day losses in over six months on Thursday. That anxiety played out in the market at large as well, with the Dow shedding 0.65% that day. Meanwhile, investors flocked to safe havens, including US Treasuries, gold and silver. If all this is bringing back memories of the 2023 regional banking crisis, you're not alone. For now, it's unclear if there's a risk to the broader market or if this is just a few bad eggs.



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

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

DOW TUMBLES NEARLY
900 POINTS AFTER
TRUMP REIGNITES
TRADE WAR BETWEEN
THE WORLD’S TWO
LARGEST ECONOMIES

Diary Times Desk : US stocks closed sharply lower Friday after President Donald Trump threatened to hike tariffs on imports from China, reigniting fears of a trade war that rocked global markets earlier this year.

The Dow fell 879 points, or 1.9%. The broader S&P 500 dropped 2.71% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite slid 3.56%.

The S&P 500 and Nasdaq each posted their worst day since April as a slide in tech stocks led the market lower. The Dow posted its worst day since May. The S&P 500’s drop of 2.71% saw the index shed roughly \$1.56 trillion in market value in one day, according to FactSet data.

Trump said in a social media post he is considering a “massive increase” in tariffs on imports from China, adding “There is no way that China should be allowed to hold the World ‘captive’” over rare earth exports. His latest threat stems from accusations that China is imposing export controls on rare earths, slow-walking previous agreements to free them up for US businesses.

WHEN YOU HAVE TO PAY YOUR EMPLOYER MONEY IF YOU QUIT
YOUR JOB



Diary Times Desk : Most people go to work for the paycheck and benefits. What they typically don’t expect is to have to return some of the money when they leave. But with some benefits — such as signing or retention bonuses, tuition reimbursement and some forms of training — workers may have to pay their employer back if they’re subject to a so-called stay-or-pay agreement, which specifies that the employee will be on the hook to repay the company for the cost of certain benefits if they don’t stay at the organization for a minimum amount of time. Why? On the one hand, “employers are trying to get a reasonable return on their investment,” said Jonathan Crook, a partner at Fisher Phillips, which represents management in labor and employment matters. In other words, paying for benefits intended to attract or retain employees only to have them get the benefit and then quit — and potentially work for a competitor — doesn’t offer a great ROI for the employer.

STOCKS SINK ON CONCERNS ABOUT REGIONAL BANK LOANS



Diary Times Desk : US stocks closed lower Thursday as jitters spread on Wall Street about credit market turmoil and regional banks’ exposures to bad loans.

The Dow fell 301 points, or 0.65%. The broader S&P 500 dropped by 0.63%, and the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite moved 0.47% lower.

Volatility has returned to Wall Street amid rising US-China trade tensions, concerns about historically expensive stocks and brewing trouble in the banking industry.

- Regional bank shares tumbled Thursday after two lenders disclosed issues with borrowers, stoking nerves about the health of the credit market — and the potential for negative spillovers into the stock market and broader economy.
- Zions Bancorp (ZION) sank 13% after the bank disclosed it would take a \$50 million loss in the third quarter because of a bad loan. Western Alliance Bancorp (WAL) dropped 10.8% after it disclosed it is suing a borrower over allegations of fraud.

“Credit quality worries are plaguing Wall Street today as fears mount that there are multiple large lenders with heavy exposure to problematic loans with limited collateral,” said José Torres, senior economist at Interactive Brokers.

The disclosures come on the heels of auto lenders First Brands and Tricolor Holdings filing for bankruptcy in September. Nerves are rising that big banks are tied up in loans that might not get repaid.

Jefferies (JEF) sank 10.6% Thursday as the bank wrestles with the fallout from having exposure to First Brands. Jefferies shares had their worst day since April and are down 25% so far this month.

SHIMLA DALIT BOY'S
SUICIDE: ACCUSED
WOMAN SENT TO
THREE-DAY POLICE
CUSTODY

Diary Times Desk : Following the rejection of her surrender application, the police late on Wednesday night arrested the woman, who has been accused of thrashing and abetting a 12-year-old Dalit boy to commit suicide at Limbra village in Chirgaon. She was today produced in court, which sent her to three-day police custody.

DSP, Rohru, Pranav Chauhan said that a case under Section 107 (abetment of suicide of child), 127 (wrongful confinement) and 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, and sections of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, has been registered against the accused and further investigation is going on.

STUDENTS PROTEST IN
BANJAR, DEMAND
EARLY COLLEGE
BUILDING
CONSTRUCTION

Diary Times Desk : Hundreds of students and youth from Gada-Gushaini under Banjar subdivision of Kullu district took to the streets yesterday, demanding the commencement of construction work of the under-construction college building. The rally, which began at the college premises, passed through the main market area and culminated in a big public meeting at the local bus stand.

The rally was organised to highlight the "neglect" as students said they had been waiting for a proper college building for over a decade. The existing site remains in poor shape with only a few incomplete pillars standing and iron rods hanging dangerously without proper shuttering. Addressing the gathering, Dola Singh (college unit president), Jiyalal (secretary), Bhawani (vice president), Mahender Singh Rana (state secretary, All India Democratic Youth Organisation) and Anil Kumar (state president, SFI) criticised both the Congress and BJP governments for their apathetic approach towards the region.

RS 7.5 CRORE, 2.5 KG GOLD, 50 IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES: CBI'S MASSIVE HAUL
FROM PUNJAB DIG BHULLAR'S RESIDENCE

Diary Times Desk : In one of the biggest corruption crackdowns in Punjab Police's ranks, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has unearthed a staggering trail of cash, gold, luxury watches, liquor, firearms, and property papers during searches at the premises of arrested DIG (Ropar Range) Harcharan Singh Bhullar, a 2009-batch IPS officer, and his associate, middleman Kirshanu Sharda.

Searches carried out at multiple locations in Chandigarh and Punjab following their arrest on Thursday evening led to the recovery of Rs 7.5 crore in cash, 2.5 kg of gold jewellery, 26 luxury watches (including Rolex and Rado), four firearms with 100 live cartridges, and documents related to over 50 immovable properties allegedly held in the names of Bhullar's family members and suspected benami entities. CBI teams also seized locker keys, details of several bank accounts, and Rs 5.7 lakh in cash, along with 108 liquor bottles and 17 live cartridges, from Bhullar's farmhouse in Samrala near Ludhiana. From the residence of the alleged middleman Kirshanu Sharda, Rs 21 lakh in cash and several incriminating documents were seized.



UNION GOVERNMENT BEING
'CHATUR' IN CHATURVEDI CASE,
ALLEGES PUNJAB MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : In the aftermath of Navneet Chaturvedi's arrest over alleged forgery of the Ropar AAP MLA's signature for filing nomination papers and the arrest of Ropar DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar by the CBI yesterday, Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh has targeted the BJP-led Union Government, alleging that it is trying to be 'chatur' (clever) in Chaturvedi case. While responding to queries during a press conference at Ropar today, Balbir Singh, who was accompanied by Ropar AAP MLA Dinesh Chadha, said, "The present AAP government and CM Bhagwant Singh Mann have zero tolerance towards corruption. However, law should be equal for everybody. In Chaturvedi case, the Union Government is doing chaturai (trying to be clever). It should use it to make people join the BJP instead," he said. While responding to queries over Punjab Government failing to check corruption in the state police, he said there was corruption in other BJP-ruled states too. "PM Narendra Modi levelled an allegation of corruption of Rs 62,000 crore in Maharashtra, However, when the leaders against whom corruption allegations were levelled joined the BJP, the allegations vanished. Law should be equal for everybody.

ASHAS IN FARIDKOT PROTEST
AGAINST STUBBLE BURNING
DUTY, CITE HEALTH RISKS AND
LOW PAY

Diary Times Desk : Hundreds of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) staged a protest outside the Civil Surgeon's office in Faridkot on Friday, denouncing the district administration's decision to assign them duties related to checking and controlling stubble burning in paddy fields. The protesters, led by ASHA Workers Union, termed the move "pathetic and unjust", alleging that the administration is overburdening them with tasks beyond their official mandate. "We are the backbone of the public health system, yet we are being sent into smoky fields to confront farmers," said one union leader. "This is a law-and-order issue that should be handled by the concerned enforcement departments, not by underpaid women health workers."ASHAs argued that their primary responsibilities include maternal and child welfare, immunisation drives, and community health initiatives — not agricultural enforcement. Sending them to monitor stubble burning not only exposes them to serious health hazards but also creates conflict between them and the farming community.



YOUR HOROSCOPE

18-10-2025



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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

ASI SANDEEP
CREMATED WITH STATE
HONOURS, FAMILY
DEMANDS FAIR PROBE

Diary Times Desk : A large crowd of mourners, including ministers, Opposition leaders, top police officials and hundreds of locals, bid a tearful farewell to ASI Sandeep Lathar, who was cremated with state honours in Julana town of Jind district on Thursday afternoon.

Lathar, 42, reportedly died by suicide on Tuesday in Ladhaut village of Rohtak district, a week after senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar ended his life in Chandigarh on October 7. Sources said the Chandigarh Police, which is probing the IPS officer's suicide, had visited Rohtak and questioned several personnel, including Lathar.

EVENTS THAT HAVE
HAPPENED
UNFORTUNATE, PROBE
ON: CM NAYAB SAINI ON
COP 'SUICIDES'

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday termed the alleged suicides by an IPS officer and an Assistant Sub-Inspector of police as unfortunate and said investigation is on and everything will become crystal clear soon.

Y Puran Kumar (52), a 2001-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, allegedly committed suicide at his Sector 11 private residence here on October 7.

There was a twist in the IPS officer's suicide case on Tuesday when Assistant Sub-Inspector Sandeep Kumar shot himself dead at a village in Rohtak and purportedly levelled corruption allegations against Puran Kumar.

Replying to a question whether any commission of inquiry will be constituted or internal probe will be held in the two cases, Saini said the incidents that have happened are unfortunate. "One incident is being probed by Chandigarh Police and the other by Haryana Police," he said. "Maine pehle bhi kaha tha, kissi bhi parivar k saath anyay nahi karegi ye sarkar (I had said earlier too that no injustice will be done with any of the families by this government. It is the Narendra Modi Government," he added.

DIGITAL ARREST: SUPREME COURT ASKS CENTRE, CBI TO SPELL OUT HOW TO DEAL
WITH IT

Diary Times Desk : Expressing serious concern over online fraud and digital arrests to dupe people by fabricating judicial orders, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre and the CBI to spell out their respective stand on dealing with the menace.

A Bench led by Justice Surya Kant, which took suo motu cognisance of a shocking case of digital arrest of an elderly couple in Ambala, Haryana, on the basis of forged orders of the top court and probe agencies by fraudsters to extort more than Rs 1.05 crore, also asked the Haryana Government and Superintendent of Police, Cyber Crime, Ambala, to file their responses.

"The forgery of documents and the brazen criminal misuse of the name, seal, and judicial authority of this court or a High Court is a matter of grave concern. The fabrication of judicial orders bearing forged signatures of Judges strikes at the very foundation of public trust in the judicial system, besides the rule of law," the Bench said.

THREE-MEMBER BOARD CONDUCTS
ASI SANDEEP'S AUTOPSY AT PGIMS
ROHTAK

Diary Times Desk : The post-mortem examination of ASI Sandeep Kumar Lather was conducted by a three-member board of doctors at PGIMS, Rohtak, on Thursday. The entire procedure was videographed for transparency.

After the post-mortem examination, Sandeep's body was transported in a flower-adorned open vehicle to his hometown Julana in Jind district for cremation.

A heavy police presence was seen outside the post-mortem house, while family members, friends and villagers gathered to pay their last respects. Though the post-mortem examination was initially scheduled for 8 am, it was delayed due to procedural formalities and concluded around 1:30 pm, after which the body was taken for the final rites.

Sandeep's relative Satyavan said the family was "satisfied with the ongoing action" and had agreed to hand over the body after a meeting with officials on Wednesday night.

HC FIXES ONE-YEAR CAP ON DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS, SAYS DELAY
VIOLATES ARTICLES 14 AND 21

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that all departmental disciplinary proceedings must conclude at the most within a year of initiation, holding that the "court cannot allow the employer to keep the sword of disciplinary action dangling over an employee indefinitely".

In all, Justice Harpreet Singh Brar issued seven comprehensive directions to ensure that the process of inquiry, punishment, and appeal was completed within the prescribed time frame. The Bench made it clear that any unexplained or inordinate delay beyond the one-year period would vitiate the proceedings and invite an adverse inference against the disciplinary authority.

The ruling came in a case where disciplinary proceedings dragged on for over 13 years. The petitioner, who retired in 2006, was served a charge-sheet in 2009 for an alleged incident dating back to 2002-03. "Curiously, the charge-sheet was issued six years after the occurrence of the alleged incident, after the petitioner had retired from service," Justice Brar observed.



PADDY ARRIVAL PICKS UP PACE,
BUT SLOW LIFTING A CAUSE FOR
CONCERN IN KARNAL

Diary Times Desk : With the paddy harvest reaching its peak, arrivals in Karnal's grain markets have picked up pace — but slow lifting of procured stock has emerged as a major concern for farmers, commission agents (arhtiyas), rice millers and procurement agencies.

According to official data, around 43.68% of the procured paddy is yet to be lifted from the district's mandis. Of the 7,06,683 metric tonnes (MT) of paddy that arrived at various procurement centres till October 15, only 3,98,049 MT has been transported to mills, while 3,08,634 MT remains piled up in markets.

The delay in lifting has led to congestion in several mandis, forcing some procurement centres to temporarily halt new arrivals due to space constraints. On Wednesday, rice millers observed a one-day shutdown of procurement operations at the Karnal grain market to highlight the problems caused by the delay.



Jacob Elordi Is Frankenstein's Monster. But Not As You Know It

His fall Frankenstein's monster rises once more, summoned this time by Mexican film director Guillermo del Toro.

But green-skinned, bolt-necked and flat-skulled he is not. In fact, the monster — who first entered the cultural conversation over 200 years ago thanks to Mary Shelley's gothic science-fiction novel — has undergone something of a facelift. Played by Hollywood heartthrob Jacob Elordi, the creature (who in Shelley's writing was abandoned by humanity for its immense and unbearable "physical deformity") appears on-screen with sculpted cheekbones and pouty lips. Even with his suture-less scars, he is kind of hot.

His skin is ivory white, inspired by the alabaster statues carved by Old Masters, with joining wounds that mimic flattering contour-lines. Elordi's big brown puppy-dog eyes are left untouched, without so much as a zombie-style darkened under-eye.

There were discussions about the addition of false eyelashes, according to the film's visual effects makeup artist and creature designer, Mike Hill, but the consensus was that Elordi's own were long and fluttering enough. It's a modest, more flattering take on one of cinema's most recognizable monsters. "I spent decades wondering how I would do this character in my own version of this," Hill, a super-fan of the story and self-described "Frankenhead," told CNN. "It kind of went out the window a little bit."

Perfect design

When the world closes its eyes and pictures the piecemeal creature, they are likely grieved by British actor Boris Karloff's drooping eyelids, extended square head and protruding neck plugs (the application of the latter reportedly left permanent scars on Karloff's neck). The visage, created by Universal Studio's then-lead makeup artist Jack Pierce for the 1931 film, was horrifying enough that its influence endured for almost 100 years. But it ultimately became a victim of its success, losing potency with every recreation until Pierce's *pièce de résistance* became, as Hill puts it, reduced to "cereal boxes and toys."

In the last 20 years, filmmakers have tried hard to distance themselves from the omnipotent grip of Pierce's version of the monster — building skintoned creatures that, whilst scarred and disfigured, bear no family resemblance to Karloff. "Everyone's trying to outdo what has been done before," Hill said.

But Hill and Del Toro wanted to go one step further. "We didn't want this creature to be too garish, we didn't want it to look like a road accident (victim)," said Hill. Instead of visible stitches, Del Toro wanted seamless lines. After a few Guillermo-approved sketches, Hill got to work sculpting clay onto a 3D-printed body scan of

Beauty was always Frankenstein's goal when building the creature. In Shelley's 1818 tale he cherry-picks the best.



Leah Dolan

Another 'She-Cession'

WOMEN ARE LEAVING THE WORKFORCE AT ALARMING RATES

There's a chilling trend emerging in the job market: Women are dropping out of the US labor force at some of the highest levels in history.

An estimated 455,000 women left the workforce between January and August this year, a period when the overall labor force has held relatively steady, Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows.

Only the pandemic saw a larger exodus for that period, according to BLS records that go back to 1948.

Economists are sounding the alarm: The losses, if continued, not only stand to erase the historic gains made by women in recent years but also risk stifling US economic growth.

"It's diminishing both current and potential growth in the economy," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at KPMG. "You want an economy that has as many people who want to have their hat in the ring working and their talents as possible. It's not a zero-sum game. It's not men or women. We need everybody. We need all hands on deck."

Reversing trends

In the years leading up to the pandemic, the labor force participation rate for prime working-aged women (25-54 years old) rose faster than that of their male counterparts.

The White House, in response to a CNN query, highlighted recent efforts to support women such as creating investment accounts for newborns and increasing the Child Tax Credit, the Employer-Provided Child Care Credit, and the Dependent Care Assistance Plan.



Alicia Wallace



For women who left the labor force this year, their experiences are heavily nuanced, CNN's interviews with more than two dozen women show.

There were some key reasons behind that shift: Fast-growing industries such as health care and caregiving were predominantly female; educational attainment for women rose substantially; and women made greater inroads into traditionally male-dominated fields such as construction, agriculture, and repair and maintenance.

Then came the pandemic, which put 21.9 million people out of work, 55% of whom were female. The participation rate for prime working-aged women plunged by more than 3 percentage points to 73.5% in just one month. (Labor force participation rates typically move very modestly, nudging up or down by just tenths of a percentage point over the span of years.)

But as the economy recovered in the following months, the rebound was sluggish for women — so much so that the period was dubbed a "she-cession" as female workers suffered higher rates of unemployment and worse employment outcomes than men.

The pandemic battered female-dominated industries; rising costs and worker shortages in the child care sector hampered moms' abilities to return to work; and women, who usually take on caregiving responsibilities, stayed home to tend to aging parents and relatives.

"Post-pandemic, we finally saw women come back en masse, and part of that was due to hybrid and work-from-home (arrangements), and it enabled women to work in ways where they could rejoin the labor force," Swonk said.

Women's prime-age participation rate hit an all-time high last year of 78.4%. However, in recent months, participation has been hovering at around 77.7%.

"We had finally, after decades, gotten past the peak that we hit in 2000. It took a hiring frenzy and hybrid work to get us back up again and exceed that level, which is stunning and a bit of a sad commentary, because we lag other major developed economies," Swonk said.

INFA

Pablo Picasso

PICASSO PAINTING GOES MISSING EN ROUTE TO EXHIBITION



Amarachi Orié

And last year, Belgian police found Picasso's stolen painting "Tête" in a basement in the city of Antwerp.

Spanish police are investigating the disappearance of a painting by Pablo Picasso after it apparently vanished on the way to an exhibition.

The 1919 gouache work "Still Life with Guitar," which measures just 12.7 centimeters by 9.8 centimeters (5 inches x 3.9 inches), was supposed to go on display from October 9, as part of a temporary exhibition at CajaGranada Cultural Center in the southern Spanish city of Granada.

The work is owned by a private collector and was insured for an estimated 600,000 euros (\$700,000), the CajaGranada Foundation, which owns the cultural center, confirmed to Reuters Friday.

The Friday before the exhibition was due to open, a van belonging to a transportation company arrived at the cultural center as scheduled to deliver works from Madrid, CajaGranada Foundation said in a press statement Thursday.

All the works were moved in a single, continuous movement from the van to a freight elevator that took all the transportation company employees at once from floor -1 to floor 1, the center said.

The items were then transferred from the elevator to the exhibition hall under video surveillance,

according to the statement.

After verifying the origins of the different packages, the exhibition manager agreed with the transportation company that the delivery would be signed for, ahead of the unpacking of the pieces the following Monday.

The packages remained under video surveillance at all time over the weekend, and the unpacking began at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, according to the center.

The recordings have been checked and no incidents occurred over the weekend, it said.

By mid-morning, the CajaGranada Foundation staff had finished unpacking the works and had positioned them in the room. This is when the exhibition curator and head of exhibitions realized Picasso's "Still Life with Guitar," known by its Spanish title as "Naturaleza muerta con guitarra," was missing.

The foundation then reported the missing work to the police, according to the statement.

The video recordings from the weekend were checked and no incidents had occurred, it said.

"An investigation is currently underway, and the investigation is attempting to determine when and where the painting disappeared," Granada police said in a statement to CNN on Friday.

The police said the missing work has been added to the international database of stolen artworks but noted that there is no international police cooperation currently being carried out from Granada.

Thieves have often targeted Picasso's paintings, which have fetched up to \$179 million at auction.

In 2019, a Dutch art detective recovered Picasso's 1938 masterpiece "Portrait of Dora Maar," worth \$28 million, 20 years after it was stolen from the yacht of a Saudi sheikh off the south coast of France.

In 2021, Greek police recovered Picasso's "Head of a Woman" and Piet Mondrian's "Landscape with a Mill" almost a decade after they were taken in a daring heist at the National Art Gallery in Athens.



Elordi. In his workshop, he molded the creature from scratch — often with most of the lights turned out and thunder sounds blasting through the speakers. "You don't want to hear cars and you don't want to hear TV or listen to YouTube," he said of his mad scientist-like working conditions. "You have to be in the 1850s."

Hill eventually devised a geometric, color-coded pattern of different muscular sections he imagined Victor Frankenstein — played by Oscar Isaac in the new film — might have used to build his creature, like a "paint by numbers" system.

RARE WORKS BY L.S. LOWRY: HIS FIRST DEPICTION OF A SPORTING CROWD AND ONE OF ONLY A HANDFUL OF PAINTINGS HE MADE OF THE COTSWOLDS

Diary Times Desk : Going to the Match (1928)

Laurence Stephen Lowry lived in an area of Greater Manchester called Pendlebury. As a boy, he had been encouraged to take up sport by his father, who in his spare time ran a youth football team. Although he never excelled as a player, Lowry did maintain an artistic interest in sport throughout his life.

Which is to say, he frequently depicted crowds making their way to or from a match, or actually attending one. These are among his most admired paintings. In 2022, *Going to the Match* (1953) — a scene capturing the mass arrival of fans at a football ground — became the most expensive work by Lowry ever sold at auction, when it fetched £7,846,500 at Christie's in London.

A painting of the same name is being offered at the same venue in the Modern British and Irish Art Evening Sale on 22 October 2025. It is the artist's earliest picture of a sporting crowd, dating from 1928, and features fans en route to a rugby match — thought to have been a derby between Lowry's local teams, Swinton Lions and Salford Red Devils.

They walk from right to left — towards the entrance to the ground, which is out of view. The pitch occupies a small part of the composition, revealed by two tall sets of rugby posts rising above a perimeter fence.

The red flag flying beside it suggests that this might be Salford's home ground — as does the preponderance of red scarves worn by members of the crowd. (Just two or three individuals can be seen wearing blue, Swinton's playing colour.)

'My ambition,' Lowry once said, 'was to put the industrial scene on the map, because nobody [before] had done it seriously.' For Lowry, that scene specifically meant the urban landscape of Lancashire in north-west England, which he inhabited his entire life: one synonymous with terraced houses, mills and factories. In many celebrated paintings — for example, *Going to Work* — he captured workers pouring in and out of such factories. The typical working week lasted five-and-a-half days, ending at noon on Saturday. After an hour or so's refreshment in the pub, the workers headed to watch a sports match (football or rugby league in the winter, cricket in the summer).



SIX WORKS BY GILLIAN AYRES FROM THE COLLECTION OF DAME SHIRLEY CONRAN: 'A TESTAMENT TO THEIR FRIENDSHIP'

Diary Times Desk : A little-known fact about the British painter Gillian Ayres is that she was partly the model for Plum, the brilliant artist in Shirley Conran's racy art-heist novel *Tiger Eyes*. The feisty Plum is in thrall to abstraction and longs to 'ride bicycles through pools of paint, then over canvases stretched taut on the floor'.

Gillian Ayres met Shirley Conran at St Paul's Girls' School in London during the Second World War. Both were highly intelligent, fiercely independent and rebellious. Life can pull friends in different directions, and it certainly did for this formidable pair.

Ayres quit school at 16 to study fine art at Camberwell College of Arts. There she met Howard Hodgkin and fell in with a group of ex-servicemen, including Terry Frost and Adrian Heath, who were keen to make their mark on the art world. They were ambitious, anti-authoritarian and had a deep antipathy for the school's prevailing realist aesthetic. These radical young painters came together in Victor Pasmore's Saturday class, where they discussed line, colour and emotions. When Hans Namuth's photographs of Jackson Pollock pouring paint on the floor were published, Ayres found her calling. By the early 1950s, she was a committed abstract modernist painter.

It is difficult to conceive of how hostile the British public was to the movement at the time. It took guts, or as Ayres would say, 'sheer bloodymindedness', to pursue something that was so deeply despised. There is a photograph of Ayres by Roger Mayne from 1960 that reveals a beautiful, wavy-haired young woman, jaw set with an indefatigable seriousness that hides her unruly exuberance.

Conran was equally single-minded. She began her career as a textile designer with her then husband, Terence Conran, before moving into journalism and founding *Femail*, the first women's section of the *Daily Mail*. In 1977, she published *Superwoman*, her working feminist's handbook for the home. Then, in 1982, came her sensational debut novel, *Lace*. It became a bestseller, and Conran used the money she earned from it to support the things she cared passionately about — most importantly, numeracy in education. 'If you have no regrets, you haven't taken any risks,' she once said.

'You can see why they were attracted to one another,' says Conran's son, Sebastian. 'Both were prepared to go against prevailing trends. Gillian absolutely embodied the feminist ideals my mother promoted.'



BARCELONA NEW SIGNING SAYS HE HAS FOUND JOY IN HIS GAME – “GIVEN ME NEW ENERGY”



Diary Times Desk : With injuries mounting for Barcelona, the presence of Marcus Rashford will become important now more than ever.

To Barça’s fortunes, Rashford has been in excellent touch in recent weeks and is currently the club’s joint-highest assist provider this season.

With Robert Lewandowski, Ferran Torres, Raphinha, Dani Olmo and even Fermin Lopez struggling with injuries heading into the Girona game, the onus will be on Rashford to provide the goods. In a recent interview with ITV Football (h/t Mundo Deportivo), Rashford had the opportunity to talk about his form.

Rashford didn’t shy away from claiming that signing for Barcelona has given him a new lease of life, especially after a few difficult years at Manchester United.

GIRONA MANAGER ADMITS BARCELONA REMAIN A THREAT DESPITE KEY ABSENCES – ‘TO WIN, WE WILL HAVE TO SUFFER’

Diary Times Desk : Girona coach Michel spoke to the media ahead of their La Liga clash against Barcelona, sending a clear message that his team will need to deliver their best performance to have any chance against the Catalan giants.

Acknowledging the challenge, he began saying, “Barça is always Barça. It doesn’t matter if they’ve just lost.

“They’re capable of beating any team in the world, and we need to play our best game to try to get a good result.”

Respecting Barça despite absences Michel was keen to stress that he does not see Barcelona as weakened, even with key absences. He explained how Girona have analysed the opponent. “I always look at the competition and the opponent I’m facing, and we’ve looked at what we can do, despite their absences. “They will have fewer options to choose from in terms of the squad, like us, but the starting XI that Barça field will be top-class, with players who would have a place in any team in the world.”

FLICK TALKS FERRAN, LAMINE, FERMIN, LEWANDOWSKI, RAPHINHA, MATCH IN MIAMI AHEAD OF BARCELONA VS GIRONA

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona manager Hansi Flick addressed the media ahead of the La Liga clash against Girona, confirming that Lamine Yamal and Fermin Lopez have returned to training, though neither will play the full 90 minutes.

With key players like Dani Olmo, Robert Lewandowski, and Ferran Torres unavailable, the coach is forced to rotate carefully. On managing his squad under these conditions, Flick said,

“It’s something I can’t change. We have to find solutions. We have to find players who can start, who can play 90 minutes.

“Lamine and Fermin are back, but we have to manage them. I know that at our best, we can beat anyone.

“The most important thing for me is to fight from the start and play our best football.”

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA CONFIRM 25-YEAR-OLD STAR WILL MISS GIRONA CLASH THROUGH HAMSTRING OVERLOAD

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have confirmed that Ferran Torres will miss the upcoming La Liga clash against Girona, but the decision is purely precautionary.

It must be noted that the 25-year-old forward is dealing with lingering discomfort from a hamstring overload in his left leg, which he sustained during the recent international break.

“First team player Ferran Torres will miss tomorrow’s match against Girona as a precaution, due to discomfort stemming from the hamstring overload in his left leg, sustained during the international break.”

Ferran had returned early from the Spanish national team’s training camp due to the overload.

Both Barcelona and the Spanish Federation clarified that it was “an overload in the hamstring muscles of the left leg without associated injury.”

Despite this, the discomfort has persisted, preventing the attacker from recovering in time to feature against Girona at Montjuïc.



BARCELONA HANDED HUGE BOOST AS CHELSEA SUPERSTAR SET TO MISS UCL CLASH

Diary Times Desk : As Barcelona look to resume their campaign this weekend, the Catalan side will be thinking about clashes against the likes of Girona, Real Madrid and Olympiakos.

However, looking ahead to next month’s clash against Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League, Barcelona have been handed a major boost.

Cole Palmer ruled out against Barcelona As reported by Mundo Deportivo, Chelsea star Cole Palmer has been ruled out for the next six weeks and will miss the Champions League fixture against Barcelona scheduled for November 25 at Stamford Bridge.

The 23-year-old Englishman picked up a groin injury during Chelsea’s clash with Manchester United on September 20.

Initial assessments suggested he would be sidelined for about a month and a half, but manager Enzo Maresca has now confirmed that Palmer’s recovery will take longer than expected.

PLAYERS ACROSS SPAIN PLAN MAJOR PROTEST THIS WEEKEND AGAINST BARCELONA VS VILLARREAL MATCH IN MIAMI

Diary Times Desk : There has been a lot of controversy within Spain surrounding La Liga’s decision to host the game between Barcelona and Villarreal in Miami in December.

Although the La Liga and even the RFEF officials have lauded the move as transformative, their approval is not echoed by most clubs across Spain, including Real Madrid.

Even the players’ association has come out with a public disapproval of the Miami game, and as club football resumes this weekend, the players in Spain are now planning a huge protest.

What’s brewing in La Liga? According to COPE, players across Spain’s top flight are preparing to stage a sit-in protest this weekend during Matchday 9 of La Liga.

The demonstration is in response to the Barcelona vs Villarreal game scheduled to take place in Miami on December 20, a move that has caused widespread discontent among players and clubs alike. The plan, as reported, is for players to sit on the pitch for 20 to 30 seconds at the start of each game this week.