

NEWS IN BRIEF

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT REUNITES INTERFAITH COUPLE, PULLS UP UP POLICE FOR THEIR UNLAWFUL DETENTION

Diary Times Desk :

The Allahabad High Court on Saturday censured the Uttar Pradesh police for illegally detaining a Hindu-Muslim couple and directed the police to escort them safely to a place of their choice.

A Division Bench of Justice Sali Kumar Rai and Justice Divesh Chandra Samant also directed the Commissioner of Police of Prayagraj, the Senior Superintendents (SSP) of Police of Aligarh and Bareilly to ensure their safety and security from any extra-legal interference in their companionship. The Court observed that woman was major by age and thus, could not have been taken into custody by police, adding that even the custody of her partner was illegal and violated their fundamental rights.

HEAVY RAIN BATTERS IDUKKI; KALLARKUTTY AND MULLAPERIYAR DAMS OPENED

Diary Times Desk :

Heavy overnight rain lashed Idukki district on Friday, triggering flash floods, mudslides, and the opening of major dams. Continuous downpour pounded Thodupuzha, Idukki, Nedumkandam, and Kumily regions, inundating several low lying residential areas and disrupting traffic on key routes.

Water entered numerous houses in Kootar, Third Camp, Mundiyeeruma, Thookkupalam, Thannimood, and Kallar towns. In Kumily, rescue teams shifted residents from flooded homes to safer locations. Five members of a family—Mini (50), Devi (29), Akshay Krishna (9), Dayan Krishna (4), and Krishna (1) — who were trapped inside their residences due to rising waters were rescued.

Around 42 families were relocated to the nearby Holiday Home dormitory building as a precautionary measure.

However, as the heavy rain receded on Saturday morning, the families returned back to their homes, informed the authorities.

RESTORATION OF STATEHOOD

OMAR ABDULLAH CONSIDERS BECOMING PARTY TO J&K STATEHOOD PLEA IN TOP COURT



On October 10, the Solicitor General of India (SG), Tushar Mehta, informed the top court that the central government is in consultation with the J&K government on restoring statehood.

"No. The first I heard about this was when the Supreme Court was informed," said Abdullah when he was asked about the Solicitor General's statement before the court.

The Supreme Court is hearing a petition seeking early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. It has granted four weeks to the central government to respond to the statehood plea.

Now, the J&K Chief Minister said that he too is considering becoming a party to the case.

"I have discussed with senior lawyers about the possibility of becoming a party to this case as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir because I think nobody understands the disadvantages we are put to by being a Union Territory than I do. I'm the only person in the entire country with the experience of being both Chief Minister of the state and the union territory."

Last week, an interim order was passed by a bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai following a statement made by the SG. The top law officer of the government also told the court that incidents like the Pahalgam terrorist attack must also be considered before restoring the statehood to J&K.

Diary Times Desk : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is considering becoming a party to the statehood plea in the Supreme Court. The Chief Minister has also contradicted the central government's claim before the top court that it's in consultation with the J&K government over the restoration of statehood.

"It's actively being discussed with the legal team, and there is a possibility that as Chief Minister, I will make myself party to this case," said Abdullah.

Abdullah, who completed one year in office without any headway on restoration of statehood, blamed the centre for not keeping the promise it made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

He denied having any consultation with the central government on statehood, a claim made by the centre during a Supreme Court hearing on the restoration of statehood to J&K.

DELHI WAKES UP TO 'POOR' AIR QUALITY, PULMONOLOGIST WARNS OF HEALTH RISKS

Diary Times Desk : The Air Quality Index (AQI) around Akshardham was recorded at 230, in the 'Poor' category, in Delhi this morning as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The Air Quality Index (AQI) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium area recorded an AQI of 252, as seen from visuals taken near Barapullah Bridge.

Raising concern regarding higher levels of AQI, Pulmonologist Dr Sharad Joshi from Chaziabad said to ANI, "Air Quality Index (AQI) has risen significantly, leading to higher levels of particulate pollutants from sources like crop burning, vehicular exhaust, and fireworks. This exacerbates respiratory issues for those with conditions such as COPD, asthma, or a history of tuberculosis, causing symptoms like cough, fever, breathlessness, and chest pain." He added that even those without prior respiratory problems, especially children and the elderly, are at risk due to weakened immunity.

Dr Joshi further said that while the use of 'green crackers' during Diwali emits fewer pollutants, they are "not entirely harmless." He emphasised that vehicular exhaust remains a year-round contributor to Delhi's pollution, with the situation worsening in October and November due to stagnant weather conditions.

To mitigate the effects of poor air quality, Dr Joshi suggested, "to reduce vehicle use through carpooling, maintain vehicle pollution levels, use air purifiers indoors, ensure proper kitchen ventilation, avoid indoor pollution sources like incense, and for those with respiratory issues, continuing regular medication and considering preventive vaccines."

"Additionally, wearing N95 or double surgical masks during outdoor activities is advised for everyone to protect against poor air quality," he added.



RISHI SUNAK'S POST ON PM MODI, INDIA AFTER ATTENDING NDTV WORLD SUMMIT 2025



Diary Times Desk : Former British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has praised India's "energy and ambition" and described the India-UK partnership as "hugely promising for the future," after attending the NDTV World Summit 2025 in New Delhi.

In a social media post following the event, Sunak wrote: "It was a pleasure to join the NDTV World Summit in New Delhi and reconnect with my good friend @narendramodi. We spoke about the challenges and opportunities shaping the decade ahead, from AI and infrastructure to global growth and economic resilience. India's energy and ambition are unmistakable. As new ideas and industries emerge, there's huge potential for deeper partnerships between countries like the UK and India in business, technology and education."

The post followed his appearance at the two-day summit, where Sunak discussed globalisation, the recently concluded India-UK trade agreement, and the growing importance of cooperation in an era of geopolitical uncertainty.

Speaking at a session moderated by NDTV's CEO and Editor-in-Chief Rahul Kanwal, Senior Managing Editor Vishnu Som, and Managing Editor Padmaja Joshi, the former British PM said the world he grew up in "no longer exists."

"The old global order, or globalisation, that I grew up with, which came into place after the fall of the Berlin Wall, that is gone, and I don't think it is coming back," Sunak said.

LEH SEES RESTRICTIONS, KARGIL HOLDS SILENT MARCH OVER LADAKH STATEHOOD



Diary Times Desk : A planned silent march, jointly called by Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) as part of their agitation for statehood and safeguards under sixth schedule of the constitution, was thwarted here on Saturday as authorities imposed strict security measures and suspended mobile internet.

However, Kargil witnessed a peaceful silent march with KDA leaders condemning the restrictions in Leh but welcomed the announcement of a judicial probe into the September 24 firing incident that left several people dead and scores of others injured.

Officials said police and paramilitary forces were deployed in strength in Leh and adjoining areas amid a call by the two agitating groups for a two-hour silent march from 10 am and three-hour black out from 6 pm across Ladakh to express solidarity with those who lost their lives in widespread violence on September 24, were injured or unlawfully detained.

"We have called for a silent march to peacefully highlight our demands but the administration, by using its might, have demonstrated its failure. They have deployed forces in strength and did not allow the people to assemble for the march," Anjuman Imamia president and a member of LAB Ashraf Ali Barcha told reporters.

He said the government should hold talks with the people rather than employing such curbs to browbeat them.

Anjuman Moin ul Islam chief Abdul Qayoom claimed that the co-chairman of the LAB, Chering Dorjay, was also put under house arrest, appealing people not to make any attempt to reach the venue of the march in view of the stringent security measures.

STATEWIDE BANDH

TELANGANA BANDH TODAY OVER BACKWARD CLASSES RESERVATION ISSUE



Diary Times Desk : The Telangana government announced that it would join the Saturday statewide bandh that protests the judicial intervention on backward classes reservation.

The statewide bandh is also being backed by the opposition parties- the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The shutdown could impact public transport and the functioning of markets.

The bandh comes as the state election commission (SEC) faces a two-week deadline by the Telangana High Court to report on proceeding with the local body elections under the old reservation structure.

The high court gave the SEC a deadline to provide a compliance report on the court's earlier directive. This order requires the SEC to conduct the local body elections, including polls for Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies, under the existing reservation pattern and not the enhanced quota proposed by the state government.

On October 9, the high court had put an interim stay on Government Order No. 9 that sought to increase the reservation for Backward Classes in local bodies from 25% to 42%.

The court stayed the order because the proposed 42% backward classes quota, when combined with existing reservations for SCs and STs, would raise the total reservation to 67%, a figure that violates the Supreme Court's mandated 50% constitutional ceiling in general areas.

The court also noted the government's failure to fully comply with the Supreme Court-mandated 'triple test' for determining the quantum of Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservations.

KERALA EDUCATION MINISTER OFFERS SUPPORT TO GIRL REFUSED ENTRY OVER HIJAB



Diary Times Desk : Kerala General Education Minister V Sivankutty on Saturday said the government is ready to help the Muslim girl student, who was barred from wearing a hijab in a Church-run private school in Kochi, to get admission in any other institution where she wishes to join. A special order will be issued if the student approaches the government with a request for the same, the minister told reporters here.

The announcement by the minister came a day after the student's father had said that he would like to seek admission in some other institution for his daughter.

"So, if the student is interested and she approaches the government, we will take steps to get her admission in any school she wishes to join through a special order," the minister said.

Sivankutty said as per the culture of the state, no student should miss an opportunity for studies due to lack of admission.

He also said the issues have pained the girl and St Rita school management is responsible for any mental stress she undergoes.

The father of the Class VIII student had on Friday said that she would not be sent back to the school.

WHAT HAL CHIEF TEST PILOT TOLD NDTV AFTER FLYING NEW LCA TEJAS MARK 1A



Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged off the first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A on Friday at Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's (HAL) facility in Maharashtra's Nashik. He also inaugurated the third production line of the LCA Tejas Mk1A, and the second production line of Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) at the same facility.

"We hope that this aircraft will be a game-changer. After the MiG-21 was phased out recently, the Indian Air Force will have close to 220 Tejas, so this will become the mainstay of the IAF," Group Captain Venugopal told NDTV.

What HAL Chief Told NDTV

HAL Chairman and Managing Director DK Sunil, who watched the new LCA Tejas take to the sky, told NDTV that the third production line of the Tejas inaugurated by the Defence Minister is a moment of pride for HAL and the nation.

"We will be able to speed up new aircraft deliveries to the Indian Air Force. We can give them 24 Tejas every year using the three production lines. We also have private partners who supply components," Sunil said.

DEFENCE MINISTER INAUGURATES CRITICAL DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE MATERIALS PLANT IN LUCKNOW

Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday inaugurated one of the first Titanium and Superalloy Materials Plants at PTC Industries' Strategic Materials Technology Complex in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Rajnath Singh reiterated that India would acquire true strength only when it can manufacture its own materials, components, chips, and alloys.

"India must produce rare materials used in defence and aerospace to become a technology creator and safeguard its technological sovereignty," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Emphasizing the importance of Rare Earth Materials used in defence, space, electronics, and other sectors, the Defence Minister noted that only certain countries have the capacity to refine these materials and make high-end products.

He stated that this new plant puts India amongst a select group of nations which can make their own critical defence and aerospace materials. "With this, we will be able to manufacture the parts used in our fighter jets, missiles, naval systems, and satellites," he said.

In this context, he said the inaugurated plant, which is one of the first private sector manufacturing units to make aero-engine components and superalloy components, will go a long way in helping India produce rare materials.

INTERESTS OF FARMERS, SMALL INDUSTRIES TO BE PROTECTED IN INDIA-US TRADE TALKS: PIYUSH GOYAL



Diary Times Desk : Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday said talks between India and the US on the proposed bilateral trade agreement are progressing in a cordial atmosphere and New Delhi will protect the interests of farmers, fishermen and MSME sectors.

"Bharat ke kisano ka, machhuvaaron ka, Bharat ke MSME sector ka, jub tak desh hiton ko puri tarah se hum sambhalen nai, tab tak koi agreement kiya nai jata (No agreement can be made until we take care of the interests of India's farmers, fishermen and MSME sector)," he told reporters here.

He was replying to a question about the progress of talks between the two countries on the proposed pact and by when it will be concluded.

KHAWAJA ASIF'S BIG WARNING TO AFGHANS IN PAK, THEN AN UNPROVOKED INDIA LINK

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has escalated tensions by again linking India with Islamabad's ongoing conflict with Kabul. The Pakistani Defence Minister also declared an end to Afghanistan ties and asked all Afghans living in Pakistan to return to their "homeland."

His comments came as the deadline for the 48-hour ceasefire ended at 6 pm local time. However, media reports said that the truce was extended as representatives of the two sides were set to meet in Doha, Qatar, to find a solution to the current tension.

"There will no longer be protest notes or appeals for peace; no delegations will go to Kabul. Wherever the source of terrorism lies, it will have to pay a heavy price," Asif said in a post on X.

He alleged that Kabul has become a "proxy of India" and is conspiring against Pakistan along with New Delhi and the banned Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

FIRE BREAKS OUT IN AMRITSAR-SAHARSA GARIB RATH EXPRESS IN PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : A fire broke out in a coach of the Amritsar-Saharsa Garib Rath Express near Sirhind railway station here on Saturday morning, officials said.

According to the Railway Board, one person sustained minor injuries in the incident, the reason behind which is yet to be ascertained.

The fire broke out around 7:30 AM when the train (number 12204) was coming from Amritsar.

A Government Railway Police (GRP) official said smoke was noticed in one of the AC coaches of the train.

A passenger pulled a chain (alarm chain pulling system) to stop the train. Thereafter, the passengers were safely evacuated from the coach, the official said.

The fire soon engulfed the coach (G-19). Two other coaches also faced minor impact. The three coaches were separated from the rest of the train and fire tenders were immediately called in, the GRP official said.

SENIOR PUNJAB COP SUSPENDED AFTER BEING ARRESTED IN RS 8-LAKH BRIBERY CASE

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police (Ropar Range) Harcharan Singh Bhullar, who was arrested by the CBI in a bribery case, has been suspended, according to a state government order.

Bhullar, along with another person, was arrested on Thursday in connection with a corruption case involving bribery of Rs 8 lakh.

Bhullar was held from his Mohali office following a complaint lodged by a Fatehgarh Sahib-based scrap dealer, who accused the senior IPS officer of demanding recurring monthly payment for "settling" a 2023 FIR against him.

Bhullar was sent to judicial custody by a CBI court here on Friday.

An order of the Punjab Home Affairs department issued on Saturday said, as per Rule 3(2) of the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, "a member of the service who is detained in official custody whether on a criminal charge or otherwise for a period longer than forty-eight hours, shall be deemed to have been suspended by the Government concerned under this rule." "In pursuance of the said Rule, Harcharan Singh Bhullar, IPS is hereby deemed to be suspended with effect from 16.10.2025, as 48 hours have lapsed since his arrest," stated the order.

CBI ARRESTS JKLFC SECTION OFFICER ON BRIBERY CHARGES

Diary Times Desk : The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a Section Officer (Legal) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Finance Corporation (JKLFC) Jammu for demanding a bribe of Rs 80,000 and accepting the first instalment of Rs 20,000, the probe agency said in a release on Saturday.

According to the CBI release, a complaint was received to the effect that the accused Section Officer was demanding a bribe of Rs 80,000 from the complainant for processing the file pertaining to the settlement of the MSME loan of Rs 51 lacs of the complainant. During the negotiation by the complainant, the first instalment was settled at Rs 20,000.

CBI laid a trap on Friday and caught the accused while accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000 as the first instalment from the complainant through online UPI transaction at a Mobile Number provided by the accused pertaining to the settlement of the MSME Loan of Rs 51 lacs, the agency said.

As per negotiations, the remaining amount was to be paid after a favourable decision is taken in this regard, it said, adding that further investigation is underway.

NOIDA DOCTOR ACCUSES IPS OFFICER HUSBAND, 6 OTHERS OF 'DOWRY HARASSMENT'

Diary Times Desk : An FIR has been registered against a Karnataka-cadre IPS officer and six others on charges of dowry harassment, domestic violence and other offences. The complaint was lodged by his wife, who is doctor based in Noida, police said on Saturday.

According to officials, the complaint was filed by Kriti Singh, a resident of Sector 128 in Noida, against her husband Shivanshu Rajput, a 2019-batch IPS officer posted in Bengaluru, along with his father, mother, brother, sister-in-law and two friends.

"The FIR has been registered under sections 85, 115(2), 352, 351(2), 3(5), and 316(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, as well as sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961," Bhupendra Kumar, Station In-charge of Sector 126 Police Station, told PTI.

In her 41-page complaint filed on October 16, Singh alleged that she was subjected to dowry demands and physical as well as mental harassment since her marriage in December 2021, which took place at a five-star hotel in Agra. The couple has a one-and-a-half-year-old son.

AMID AFGHAN CONFLICT, PAK ARMY CHIEF ASIM MUNIR'S ANTI-INDIA NUCLEAR RHETORIC



Diary Times Desk : Pakistani Army Chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, has issued fresh threats against India. While Pakistan itself was raining bombs on Afghan civilians, Munir doubled down on anti-India nuclear rhetoric, claiming Islamabad's expanding military capabilities could "shatter the misconceived immunity of India's geographical warspace."

Delivering a highly provocative address at the Pakistan Military Academy (PMA) in Kakul, Munir claimed that there was "no space for war in a nuclearised environment."

But in the very next sentence, he warned that even a "minor provocation" would invite a "decisive, beyond proportions" response from Pakistan.

NC SET TO CONCEDE NAGROTA SEAT IN J&K BYPOLLS TO CONGRESS TO MEND STRAINED TIES AFTER RS SEAT SNUB

Diary Times Desk : In a bid to iron out differences in the alliance, the ruling National Conference (NC) is all set to concede the Nagrota Assembly seat in the upcoming J&K bypolls to its ally Congress.

The conciliatory move comes after the NC snubbed the grand old party in the Rajya Sabha polls from Jammu and Kashmir by denying a safe seat.

Sources said the talks are on between NC and Congress at the highest level on the seat sharing on the bypolls to two J&K Assembly seats -- Nagrota (in Jammu) and Budgam (in Kashmir). Congress has been desirous of contesting the Nagrota seat and leaving the Valley seat to NC during the negotiations, they said.

The sources revealed that Congress has been upset and hurt by NC's snub in the Rajya Sabha polls despite making commitments for a safe seat to the party. Congress wants NC to spare the Nagrota seat for the party, or it would contest from both the bypoll seats.

'1.5 HOURS, 7 KM, AND AN 8-MONTH PREGNANT WIFE': BENGALURU MAN QUESTIONS IF CITY IS LIVEABLE

Diary Times Desk : The festive season has taken a toll on Bengaluru residents who have had to endure massive traffic jams, forcing them to spend hours sitting idle in their vehicles. A social media user has now vented their frustration, questioning if Bengaluru was liveable anymore after they were forced to spend 1.5 hours in traffic, whilst covering a mere distance of seven kilometres with a heavily pregnant wife beside them.

"The picture says it all. 1.5 hours to cover a miserable 7 km on HAL road near Varthur this evening. I was taking my 8-month pregnant wife for a routine checkup," the user wrote in the r/bangalore subreddit.

The man said that during the traffic jam, he feared what if the worst was happening right now: "I kept thinking, what if this was a real emergency? What if she went into labour right now?"



CHINA'S PL-15E MISSILE MISFIRE BY PAKISTAN COULD GIVE INDIA'S ASTRA MISSILE AN UNEXPECTED EDGE: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : While Operation Sindoor has demonstrated to the world the capabilities of India's indigenous defence systems, it has also been helping India to improve its weapon systems—in a rather unexpected way.

The discovery of an unexploded export variant of China's PL-15E long-range beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM), developed by the China Airborne Missile Academy (CAMA), in a field near Hoshiarpur of Punjab has helped Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to make India's Astra Mark-2 programme better by incorporating the advanced features of the China-made missile, according to a Hindustan Times report.

The missile was found exploded as it reportedly did not have a self-destruct mechanism. Pakistan Air Force (PAF) is the first and only confirmed operator of the PL-15E in the operational context. The missile that was found by the Indian side could have been fired.

YUSUF PATHAN VISITS BENGAL'S ADINA MOSQUE, BJP CALLS IT ADINATH TEMPLE

Diary Times Desk : A social media post by Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP and former cricketer Yusuf Pathan has triggered a storm in West Bengal over an ancient mosque in Malda.

"The Adina Mosque in Malda, West Bengal, is a historic mosque built in the 14th century by Sultan Sikandar Shah, the second ruler of the Ilyas Shahi dynasty. Constructed in 1373-1375 CE, it was the largest mosque in the Indian subcontinent during its time, showcasing the region's architectural grandeur," Pathan wrote on X on Thursday with photos at the archaeological monument.

Last year, a group of priests held Hindu rituals inside the mosque. One of the priests, Hiranmoy Goswami, President of Vishwavidya Trust in Vrindavan, had spotted Hindu deities and claimed the mosque was built over a Hindu temple. Goswami, along with the other priests, held a prayer service. They, however, were stopped when the locals informed the police.

PEOPLE ARE USING AI TO TALK TO GOD

Diary Times Desk : In India and around the world, worshipers are turning to purpose-built AI for religious worship and spiritual guidance. What happens when the machines become our new spiritual middlemen?

Faced with the questions and challenges of modern life, Vijay Meel, a 25-year-old student who lives in Rajasthan, India, turns to God. In the past he's consulted spiritual leaders. More recently, he asked GitaGPT. GitaGPT is an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot trained on the Bhagavad Gita, the holy book of 700 verses of dialogue with the Hindu god Krishna. GitaGPT looks like any text conversation you'd have with a friend – except the AI tells you you're texting with a god.

"When I couldn't clear my banking exams, I was dejected," Meel says. But after stumbling on GitaGPT, he typed in details about his inner crisis and asked for the AI's advice. "Focus on your actions and let go of the worry for its fruit," GitaGPT said. This, along with other guidance, left Meel feeling inspired.

OVER 250 PASSENGERS STRANDED IN ITALY'S MILAN AS AIR INDIA CANCELS DELHI FLIGHT OVER 'TECHNICAL SNAG'

Diary Times Desk : An Air India Dreamliner aircraft faced a technical issue at the Milan airport on Friday, forcing the airline to cancel its flight to Delhi and leaving over 250 passengers stranded in the Italian city.

Most of the passengers have been rebooked in flight on October 20, which is also Diwali.

Air India on Saturday said flight AI138 from Milan to Delhi on October 17 was cancelled due to an extended technical requirement on the aircraft scheduled to operate the flight.

There were posts on social media complaining about lack of adequate facilities for the passengers.

"All affected passengers have been provided hotel accommodations; however, due to limited availability, accommodations were arranged outside the immediate vicinity of the airport," the airline said in a statement on Saturday.

EXPOSITION OF HOLY RELICS OF BUDDHA IN RUSSIA'S KALMYKIA DRAWS OVER 90,000 DEVOTEES

Diary Times Desk : The exposition of a portion of the sacred relics of Lord Buddha, currently enshrined at a monastery in Russia's Kalmykia, has drawn more than 90,000 devotees since it was brought to that country a week ago, officials said.

The relics, originally enshrined at the at the National Museum here, was ferried to Russia in a special Indian Air Force aircraft and reached Elista, the capital city of the Republic of Kalmykia on October 11. As part of the exposition, it was later temporarily enshrined in the main Buddhist monastery in Elista, known as the Geden Sheddup Choikorling Monastery, also called the "Golden Abode of Shakyamuni Buddha." This is a significant Tibetan Buddhist centre, opened for the public in 1996 and is surrounded by the Kalmyk steppe, the Indian Culture Ministry earlier said.

FIVE COUNTRIES NIGERIANS CAN RELOCATE TO WITHOUT SPENDING MUCH



Diary Times Desk : For many Nigerians, leaving the country in search of stability, better opportunities, and improved quality of life has become an aspiration and in some cases, a necessity. Yet, with the rising cost of relocation, traditional destinations such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States are becoming increasingly difficult to access. From tightening visa regulations to steep living expenses, these countries are starting to feel like gated communities reserved for the ultra-prepared or the ultra-wealthy. But relocation isn't limited to the most popular routes. Across Europe, several lesser known nations are quietly opening their doors to international residents offering affordable education, flexible visa options.

EUROPE MUST BE TOUGHER ON CHINA TRADE, BUNDESBANK CHIEF SAYS

Diary Times Desk : Europe, in its trade dealings with China, needs to act "in a more offensive way" to protect its own interests and those of its companies, Bundesbank President Joachim Nagel said on Saturday.

The United States' tariffs this year have caused global turmoil as China has retaliated and rerouted some of the products it can no longer export to the U.S. to other markets.

"When it comes to China, let me only say one thing: China needs Europe more than Europe needs China," Nagel, who sits on the ECB's Governing Council, said in Washington.

"We are a strong economy. We are four hundred fifty million people... So we should play the European card in a more offensive way."

Nagel said Europe needed to avoid a trade war with China and should maintain a dialogue but also needed to protect its own markets.

"The point that I would like to say here is that Europe should play the cards in a way that we are more convinced about ourselves."

3 INDIANS KILLED, 1 INJURED AS BOAT CAPSIZES OFF MOZAMBIQUE COAST

Diary Times Desk : Three Indian nationals were killed, one was injured, and five others rescued in a boat accident off the coast of Beira in Mozambique, the Indian High Commission here said on Saturday.

The mishap took place on Thursday.

In a social media post, the Indian mission conveyed its "heartfelt condolences on the loss of lives, including of three Indian nationals," in the boat accident off Beira port.

It said the mission was in contact with the families of those who lost their lives in the mishap and is extending all possible assistance to them.

In another post, the High Commission said a Consular Officer from the mission visited an Indian national who survived the accident and was receiving medical attention in a hospital in Beira.

AFGHANISTAN WITHDRAW FROM TRI-NATION SERIES AFTER PAKISTANI AIRSTRIKE KILLS 3 CRICKETERS

Diary Times Desk : The Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Saturday expressed profound grief over the killing of three Afghan cricketers in a Pakistani airstrike in Paktika province and announced its withdrawal from the upcoming Tri-Nation T20I series involving Pakistan.

In a statement posted on X, the ACB said, "The Afghanistan Cricket Board expresses its deepest sorrow and grief over the tragic martyrdom of the brave cricketers from Urgun District in Paktika Province, who were targeted this evening in a cowardly attack carried out by the Pakistani regime."

The board confirmed that the players, identified as Kabeer, Sibghatullah, and Haroon, were among eight people killed in the airstrike in the Urgun district. Seven others were reportedly injured. The players had earlier travelled to Sharana, the provincial capital of Paktika, to participate in a friendly cricket match. They were targeted after returning home to Urgun during a local gathering, according to the ACB.

In response to the incident, the ACB announced that it would not take part in the Tri-Nation T20I series scheduled for late November, which was to feature Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.



DONALD TRUMP SIGNS ORDER THAT EXTENDS AUTO TARIFF RELIEF



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump signed an order Friday to extend an arrangement that allowed automakers to reduce tariffs paid on imported vehicle parts.

In the same order, released by the White House, he formalised a new 25-percent tariff on imported medium and heavy duty trucks and parts, beginning on November 1.

The announcements came after the Trump administration launched a so-called Section 232 probe into imports of trucks this year to determine their effects on national security.

The president has used such investigations, under the authority of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, to impose tariffs on various imported goods in efforts to boost domestic manufacturing and punish countries that he says are taking advantage of the United States.

Among sectors impacted so far have been steel and aluminum, as well as autos.

But the latest announcement also extends Trump's effort in April to soften tariffs on US automakers.

TRUMP TORPEDOES INTERNATIONAL
DEAL TO REDUCE SHIPPING
EMISSIONS

Diary Times Desk : Members of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) have voted to postpone approving a plan to curb shipping emissions, after United States President Donald Trump threatened to impose sanctions on countries that supported the measure.

The vote on Friday set back plans to regulate the shipping industry's contributions to climate change by at least 12 months, even though the Net Zero Framework (NZF) had already been approved by members of the London-based IMO, a United Nations body, in April. "The United States will NOT stand for this Global Green New Scam Tax on Shipping," he said, telling countries to vote against the plan.

US RESIDENT ARRESTED FOR HELPING
HAMAS IN OCT 7 ATTACK. HE LIED ON
VISA FORM

Diary Times Desk : The FBI has accused a Louisiana resident of participating in the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, then lying about his past and fraudulently obtaining a visa to live in the US.

According to an FBI criminal complaint unsealed this week, Mahmoud Amin Ya'qub Al-Muhtadi armed himself and gathered a group to cross from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel during the attack that left more than 1,200 people dead.

Hamas fighters also kidnapped more than 250 people, including dozens of American citizens, during the raid. This week, Hamas released the 20 remaining living hostages after the two sides agreed to a tenuous ceasefire in the Palestinian territory.

TRUMP SEEKS TO BUILD ON MOMENTUM FROM GAZA DEAL IN A BUSY DIPLOMATIC
WEEK



Diary Times Desk : The real estate developer-turned-Swiss Army Knife diplomat (officially the special presidential envoy for peace missions) was sitting in the galleries of the Israeli Knesset on Monday, listening as President Donald Trump basked in the newly brokered ceasefire-for-hostages deal, when his boss reminded him of another assignment.

"We have to get Russia done. We got to get that one done," Trump said while musing about a new Iran nuclear deal. "If you don't mind, Steve, let's focus on Russia first."

"We had to set the table properly," he added later. "This should be one that we get done."

VENEZUELA'S MADURO
DOESN'T WANT TO F***
AROUND WITH US: DONALD
TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump unleashed a four-letter broadside at Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro on Friday, as he said the leftist strongman had offered major concessions to ease tensions with Washington.

"He has offered everything, you're right. You know why? Because he doesn't want to fuck around with the United States," Trump said when a journalist at the White House asked about reports that Caracas had floated de-escalation plans.

Washington accuses Maduro of heading a drug cartel and has deployed significant military assets -- including stealth warplanes and seven US Navy ships -- as part of what it says are counter-narcotics efforts in the region.

WITH RARE EARTHS, DEFT
DIPLOMACY (AND AMPLE
FLATTERY), PAKISTAN
SHOWS HOW TO DEAL WITH
TRUMP 2.0

Diary Times Desk : As US President Donald Trump took a victory lap in front of world leaders following the Gaza ceasefire on Monday, he gave a shout-out to Pakistan's top soldier, calling him his "favorite field marshal."

He then relinquished the podium to allow Pakistan's civilian leader, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, to deliver to the cameras his own praise of Trump's ceasefire efforts. Sharif announced that same day he intended to nominate Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize -- again.

A year ago, such scenes would have been unthinkable.

Washington had long kept Pakistan at arm's length, over its chronic political instability and alleged ties to US-sanctioned Islamist terror groups. The fact it's one of China's closest allies didn't help either.

Trump's predecessor Joe Biden never even called either of the two Pakistani prime ministers who served during his term. After the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, he enraged neighboring Pakistan by calling it "one of the most dangerous nations in the world."

But Trump 2.0 has shaken the mixer of US diplomacy, upending friendships and bringing foes into the fold of his presidency -- if they have something to offer. And so far, Pakistan has delivered a masterclass in how to respond. It seems to have accomplished this through a promise of preferential access to critical rare earths not controlled by China and judicious flattery of Trump.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FURLOUGHS NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGENCY STAFF DUE TO SHUTDOWN

Diary Times Desk : The administration of United States President Donald Trump has announced that it will furlough about 1,400 workers at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) starting next week due to the ongoing shutdown of the US government.

A spokesman at the Department of Energy, of which the NNSA is a semiautonomous branch, said on Friday that nearly 400 workers would remain at the agency, which is responsible for overseeing the US nuclear weapons stockpile. President Trump's energy secretary, Chris Wright, said "enough is enough" in a post on X on Friday, as he announced the planned furlough of NNSA workers.

"Starting next week, we're going to have to furlough thousands of workers that are critical to modernizing our nuclear arsenal because of [Chuck] Schumer's disastrous Shutdown.

**FROM TRUMP ALLY TO TRUMP FOE: WHO IS JOHN BOLTON?**

Diary Times Desk : John Bolton has spent decades navigating the halls of power in Washington, earning a reputation as a leading foreign policy hawk. The veteran diplomat with the trademark bushy white mustache unrepentantly pushed the Iraq invasion and campaigned to bomb Iran and North Korea.

Bolton was semi-retired and working as a talking head on Fox News when he was tapped by the television-loving Donald Trump in 2018 to become his national security advisor.

But what appeared to be his dream job ended with Bolton becoming one of the Republican president's fiercest critics and has now seen him indicted for allegedly mishandling classified information.

The 76-year-old Bolton pleaded not guilty in a federal court in Maryland on Friday to 18 counts of transmitting or retaining top secret national defence information collected during his short-lived tenure at the White House.

ACCUSER'S BROTHER URGES KING TO STRIP ANDREW OF PRINCE TITLE

Diary Times Desk : The brother of Virginia Giuffre has called on King Charles to strip Prince Andrew of the title "prince" after he announced he is giving up his other titles, including the Duke of York.

Ms Giuffre alleged she was forced to have sex with the prince on three occasions, including when she was aged 17 at the home of his friend Ghislaine Maxwell in London in 2001.

The prince made a financial payment to Ms Giuffre in an out-of-court settlement in 2022, after she had brought a civil case against him. He denies all the accusations against him.

Sky Roberts told BBC Newsnight his sister, who took her own life earlier this year, would be "very proud" of the latest development regarding Prince Andrew.

The prince has been under increasing pressure over his links with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, with calls for Buckingham Palace to take action against him.

CHINA EXPELS TOP GENERAL, EIGHT MILITARY OFFICIALS OVER CORRUPTION

Diary Times Desk : China's second-highest ranking general and eight other senior officials have been expelled from the ruling Communist Party and the military on suspicion of serious misconduct linked to corruption, the Defence Ministry said Friday.

He Weidong, who was the vice-chair of the powerful Central Military Commission, is the most senior official targeted so far in an ongoing anti-graft drive against Chinese military leaders.

The nine officials are suspected of extremely serious crimes involving exceptionally large sums of money, Defence Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang said in a statement posted online.

Their cases have been investigated and referred to military prosecutors for review and prosecution, Zhang said.

Government anti-corruption drives have become a signature policy of Chinese leader Xi Jinping since he came to power in 2012. Thousands of officials have been purged including high-profile political rivals.

CHINESE NOBEL LAUREATE AND PHYSICIST CHEN NING YANG DIES AGED 103

Diary Times Desk : Chen Ning Yang, Nobel laureate and one of the world's most influential physicists, has died at the age of 103, according to Chinese state media. An obituary released by CCTV cited illness as the cause of death.

Yang and fellow theoretical physicist, Lee Tsung-Dao, were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1957 for their work in parity laws, which led to important discoveries regarding elementary particles - the building blocks of matter.

Yang was also a professor at Beijing's prestigious Tsinghua University and an honorary dean of the Institute for Advanced Study at the institution.

Born in 1922 in China's eastern Anhui province, he was the oldest of five children and raised on the campus of Tsinghua University where his father was a professor of mathematics.

As a teenager, Yang told his parents: "One day, I want to win the Nobel Prize." He achieved that dream at the age of 35, when his work with Lee studying the law of parity earned them the honour in 1957. The Nobel committee praised "their penetrating investigation... which has led to important discoveries regarding the elementary particles".

'PAK ATTACKED AFGHANISTAN': WHAT TRUMP SAID ON BROKERING PEACE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his claim of "solving" eight wars and indicated that brokering peace between warring Pakistan and Afghanistan would be his next goal. The American leader claimed that solving the Afghanistan-Pakistan conflict, his "number nine", would be an "easy one" for him to solve.

"Although I do understand that Pakistan attacked, or there is an attack going on with Afghanistan. That's an easy one for me to solve if I have to solve it. In the meantime, I have to run the USA, but I love solving wars," Trump said, talking to reporters at the White House.

The Republican leader yet again claimed to have solved multiple wars, including brokering peace between nuclear-powered neighbours India and Pakistan, a claim New Delhi has firmly rejected. India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two militaries.

"I solved eight wars. Go to Rwanda and the Congo, and talk about India and Pakistan. Look at all of the wars that we solved, and every time I solved, when they said, 'If you solve the next one, you're going to get the Nobel Prize.' I didn't get a Nobel Prize. Somebody got it who is a very nice woman.



FIRE AT DHAKA AIRPORT'S CARGO SECTION, ALL FLIGHT OPERATIONS SUSPENDED

Diary Times Desk : A major fire broke out at the cargo terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Saturday, forcing the suspension of all flights.

As per the officials said the fire started near Gate 8 around 2:30 pm. Fire Service spokesman Talha Bin Jashim said 36 units are working to douse the flames, The Daily Star reported.

The airport's executive director, Md Masudul Hasan Masud, confirmed the fire and said that emergency measures were in place. "All our aircraft are confirmed safe. Further updates will be provided as the situation develops," a spokesperson for the airport told The Daily Star.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh spokesperson said, "Landings and takeoffs of all aircraft have been suspended until further notice. All our aircraft are confirmed safe."

AFGHAN, PAKISTANI DELEGATIONS HEAD TO DOHA TO RESOLVE DEADLY BORDER CLASHES

Diary Times Desk : Afghan and Pakistani delegations are heading to the Qatari capital Doha to defuse the deadliest crisis between them in several years, after more than a week of fighting that killed dozens of people and injured hundreds on both sides. The Taliban government said Saturday that the Afghan delegation included the defence minister and the head of the national intelligence agency. A Pakistani delegation was due to depart Saturday, the national broadcaster PTV had said a day earlier. It did not give further details. Each country says it is responding to aggression from the other. Pakistan accuses Afghanistan of harboring militants who carry out attacks in border areas, a charge rejected by the Taliban.

DISAPPOINTMENT IN KYIV AS ZELENSKY LEAVES WHITE HOUSE EMPTY-HANDED

Diary Times Desk : One word sticks out in the Ukrainian leader's description of his latest high-stakes foray into the nerve-centre of American power. His White House conversation with President Donald Trump, Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on X, was "pointed". But we don't need to parse his semantic description of the exchange to know that this was not the meeting that the Ukrainian side had been expecting. If the old British adage holds true that a week is a long time in politics, then Zelenskyy appears to have set a new record. A short transatlantic flight, it seems, is now an age. As they set off for Washington on Thursday, the Ukrainian side was in high spirits. Listen to the words of Ruslan Stefanchuk, the speaker of Ukraine's parliament – effectively the country's second in command – and a politician fiercely loyal to Zelenskyy. In an interview with the BBC shortly before the president's plane took off, Stefanchuk described the trip as a "very important historical moment". The meeting, he said, would leave the world in no doubt that Trump "finally understands that Putin is a liar, he can't be trusted, and actions are needed to stop the war".

'WE LOVE AMERICA, NOT TRUMP': MILLIONS RALLY IN US 'NO KINGS' PROTESTS

Diary Times Desk : Huge crowds are expected to hit the streets Saturday from New York to San Francisco to vent their anger over President Donald Trump's headline policies at nationwide "No Kings" protests slammed by Republicans as "Hate America" rallies. More than 2,700 demonstrations are planned coast to coast, from big cities to small towns, and even near Trump's Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida, where he is spending the weekend. Organisers say they are expecting millions to attend. Those numbers would match the massive turnout at similar events on June 14, Trump's birthday and the day of a giant military parade in the US capital, in outrage over the Trump administration's crackdown on undocumented migrants and its deployment of National Guard troops to Los Angeles. Since then, Trump, who returned to the White House in January, has ordered National Guard troops into Washington and Memphis. Planned deployments to Chicago and Portland, Oregon have so far been blocked in the courts.

ELEVEN KILLED AFTER ISRAEL HITS BUS IN GAZA, HAMAS-RUN CIVIL DEFENCE SAYS

Diary Times Desk : Gaza's Hamas-run civil defence says 11 people were killed, all from the same family, after the bus they were in was hit by an Israeli tank shell in northern Gaza. The Abu Shaaban family, it said, were trying to reach their home to inspect it when the incident happened in the Zeitoun neighbourhood of Gaza City on Friday night. This is the deadliest single incident involving Israeli soldiers in Gaza since the start of the ceasefire eight days ago. The Israeli military said soldiers had fired at a "suspicious vehicle" that had crossed the so-called yellow line demarcating the area still occupied by Israeli forces in Gaza.

Israeli soldiers continue to operate in more than half of the Gaza Strip, under the terms of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement.

CAN PUTIN'S 'FLYING KREMLIN' TRAVEL THROUGH EU AIRSPACE TO BUDAPEST?

Diary Times Desk : The summit has not been set in stone, but if Russia's Vladimir Putin does go to Budapest to meet US President Trump in the next two weeks, he would need to clear a few hurdles first.

When Putin travelled to Alaska for his Anchorage summit in August, the US granted special permission for the presidential plane – a modified Ilyushin Il-96 airliner dubbed the "Flying Kremlin" that has four engines and is bristling with defence systems.

Russian planes are banned from US airspace, and from EU airspace too. So if Putin does fly to Budapest he would need special dispensation if he decided to fly over an EU member state.

It is perfectly possible, but landlocked Hungary is not the easiest destination to get to for a Russian president who rarely sets foot abroad and has not travelled to the EU for years.

"For now, of course, it's not clear," says Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. "What we do have is the willingness of the presidents to hold such a meeting."

Days after Putin ordered Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the EU froze the assets of both its leader and Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

A blanket ban was also imposed on all Russian aircraft flying through the airspace of all 27 EU countries. Hungary and many of its neighbours are Nato member states too.

Putin has also been accused by the International Criminal Court (ICC) of war crimes of unlawfully deporting and transferring of Ukrainian children to Russia.

So there are complications, although Hungary believes they can all be sorted out. Hungary is in the process of pulling out of the ICC anyway.



MARC BENIOFF
APOLOGIZES FOR
SUGGESTING NATIONAL
GUARD BE SENT TO SAN
FRANCISCO

Diary Times Desk :
Salesforce billionaire Marc Benioff backtracked on Friday from comments suggesting President Donald Trump should send the National Guard to San Francisco. The tech CEO's remarks initially drew a wave of criticism.
"Having listened closely to my fellow San Franciscans and our local officials, and after the largest and safest Dreamforce in our history, I do not believe the National Guard is needed to address safety in San Francisco," Benioff posted on X on Friday.
"My earlier comment came from an abundance of caution around the event, and I sincerely apologize for the concern it caused," he added.
The company's annual Dreamforce conference took place this week and drew tens of thousands to the city.

BOEING CAN HIKE 737
MAX PRODUCTION TO
42 PLANES PER MONTH,
FAA SAYS



Diary Times Desk :
Boeing can hike 737 MAX production to 42 planes per month after the Federal Aviation Administration lifted a 38-plane-per-month cap that had been in place since January 2024, the agency and planemaker said on Friday.

The FAA imposed the unprecedented production cap shortly after a 2024 mid-air emergency involving a new Alaska Airlines 737 MAX 9 that was missing four key bolts.

The announcement is a significant milestone for the U.S. planemaker, which was plunged into a safety crisis following the mid-air incident.

The FAA said on Friday its safety inspectors "conducted extensive reviews of Boeing's production lines to ensure that this small production rate increase will be done safely."

HOW A COMPANY FROM THE GILDED AGE COULD BE THE FUTURE OF
US MANUFACTURING

Diary Times Desk : Oversized crowbars bend wood for a piano's rim. Circular sanders smooth rough edges on costly Sitka spruce soundboards. Hammers and chisels notch a bridge to allow piano strings to vibrate freely.

For 30 years, Bernard Craddock has been one of the roughly 200 workers handcrafting pianos at the 150-year-old Steinway & Sons factory in Astoria, a neighborhood in the New York borough of Queens.

"Everybody has a specific job here," Craddock said, working on a piano frame. "My job is to set this straight for the hammers to hit the strings."

President Donald Trump has vowed to start an American manufacturing renaissance, one of the main aims of his trade war. But manufacturing isn't easy anywhere in the United States thanks to high costs, strict regulations and lack of workers with the necessary skills. Steinway & Sons, however, is a rare bright spot in US manufacturing. A company that thrives because it doesn't mass produce its product. Instead, it uses a small workforce of skilled craftsmen to produce a premium item — world-class pianos.



THE LATEST CHAPTER OF THE TRUMP-XI 'SITUATIONSHIP'
EXPLAINED

Diary Times Desk : Another spat between the leaders of the world's two largest economies has quickly escalated, and if President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping don't lower the temperature soon, both nations stand to pay an exorbitant price.

Sky-high tariffs had brought trade between the two countries to a screeching halt earlier this year, before they reached a monthslong truce and substantially lowered levies on one another.

But trade tensions have reignited, with Trump threatening to impose tariffs starting at 130% on Chinese exports by November 1, up from the 30% minimum rate currently in effect.

Trump also said he's prepared to impose export controls on what he referred to as "any and all critical software" to China. Beijing has signaled it would retaliate to all these actions.



WHY THIS ANALYST SAYS THE AI BUBBLE IS 17 TIMES BIGGER THAN
THE DOT-COM BUST

Diary Times Desk : At this point, even the concept of an "AI bubble" seems to be a bubble. (In fact, Deutsche Bank analysts said last month that the "AI bubble" bubble has already burst.)

Perhaps some corners of the internet are bored of the bubble talk. That's not making the market any less, um, bubbly.

Just this week, the Financial Times wrote that 10 AI startups — not a dollar in profit among them — have gained nearly \$1 trillion in market value over the past 12 months. (That is, to use a technical term, bananas.)

Even as Wall Street analysts and tech media increasingly question the hype, drawing uneasy comparisons to the late 1990s, the AI industry's response has been to shrug and watch their valuations tick higher and higher. The AI faithful believe the technology will disrupt (in a good way, hopefully!) virtually every aspect of modern life, from phone operating systems to pharmaceuticals to finance. And even if there is a bubble, proponents say, the dot-com bubble gave us companies like Amazon, and the internet became, well, the internet.



HOW ‘KIDULTING’ HELPED MAKE BUILD-A-BEAR A WALL STREET DARLING

Diary Times Desk : Build-A-Bear Workshop, the nearly 30-year-old toy brand, is having a breakout moment, eclipsing some of Wall Street’s biggest winners by targeting customers across a broad age range.

The toy company’s revenue grew 11% in the second quarter to a record \$124.2 million, and it even raised full-year guidance – all while mitigating the cost of tariffs. That’s a stark contrast to years of unprofitability before 2012.

Investors have taken notice. In the last year alone, Build-A-Bear’s stock is up 76%. In the last five years, the toy company’s share price (BBW) has risen nearly 2,000% – besting even tech companies riding the AI boom like Palantir, Nvidia and Microsoft.

SMART MOVES TO MAKE WHEN THE FED STARTS CUTTING RATES

Diary Times Desk : Over the past couple of years, the Federal Reserve aggressively raised its key interest rate to a 23-year high to beat down inflation. Now that inflation has slowed substantially and is expected to cool further, the central bank is expected to embark on a rate-cutting campaign over the next two years, starting as early as September.

If it does, rates should decline on a wide swath of financial products for Americans, from credit cards and home loans to bank accounts and certificates of deposit, among others.

Given how many ways lower rates can affect your finances, here are some things to consider when deciding what steps to take in response. Timing and magnitude matter The prospect of lower borrowing costs will be welcome news to those seeking loans or anyone trying to reduce their existing debt loads. But, realistically, how much you’ll save when the Fed lowers rates will depend on how quickly it cuts and by how much each time. The answer for the near term is most likely to be “not that much.” “Interest rates took the elevator going up, but they will take the stairs coming down,” said Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.

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, the Fox News host turned US attorney Jeanine Pirro, ex-Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani and MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT IN THIS TOPSY-TURVY STOCK MARKET? CHOOSE YOUR OWN WALL STREET ADVENTURE!



Diary Times Desk : The stock market is sending mixed signals at the moment, caught in a tangle of overlapping anxieties. Predicting its next move depends heavily on which narrative you want to believe.

Adventure No. 1: Trouble with banks

You could choose door No. 1 and subscribe to the dominant concern of the week: A number of high-profile bankruptcies in consumer-facing industries may have exposed an underlying economic weakness that threatens parts of the banking sector.

A small number of regional banks have reported some bad loans this past week. The bankruptcies of a major auto parts company and a subprime auto lender have exposed bigger lenders, including JPMorgan and Wall Street finance company Jefferies, to potentially significant losses.

A number of the lenders are alleging they were victims of fraud. But if you believe these are canaries in the coal mine – and not a series of isolated incidents – it might mean a growing number of consumers won’t be able to pay back their loans or may rein in their spending with companies that owe banks a bunch of money. That could drag down lenders that are most susceptible if the economy really starts to take a turn for the worse.

To paraphrase JPMorgan CEO Jamie Dimon this week, these bank problems may be cockroaches that could signal the presence of other hidden cockroaches. Trump and his administration quickly walked back those threats, confirming a Xi meeting was still on. And today Trump said he understood significantly higher tariffs on China wouldn’t be sustainable. Investors have largely ignored the economic impact of President Donald Trump’s tariffs over the past six months, as prognosticators’ worst predictions about high inflation and a slowing economy have failed to come to fruition.

HEAD PRIEST OF BABA
BALAK NATH SHRINE
FLAGS 'IRREGULARITIES'
IN TEMPLE
MANAGEMENT

Diary Times Desk : The head priest of the Baba Balak Nath temple at Deotsidh in Himachal Pradesh's Hamirpur district on Friday flagged alleged irregularities in the management of the temple trust.

Attacking the trust at a press conference on Thursday evening, Mahant S Rajendra Giri claimed workload management has been a problem for several years due to the absence of a permanent temple official.

"An officer of IAS or equivalent rank should be appointed to ensure high-level management of temple operations," Giri said.

Laws are being blatantly flouted and the number of students in the educational institutions run by the temple trust is steadily declining, he alleged. The trust administration should address the problem by offering professional courses, he suggested.

APS DAGSHAI MARKS
39TH FOUNDER'S DAY
WITH TRIBUTES TO
TALENT, VALOUR

Diary Times Desk : Army Public School (APS) Dagshai celebrated its 39th Founder's Day on Thursday with a vibrant cultural display and a proud reflection of its academic and co-curricular achievements. The event was graced by Maj Gen Himanshu Bhatnagar, CSO, HQ Western Command and the school's patron, as chief guest.

Col SP Bishnoi, Commanding Officer, Training Battalion, 14 GTC Subathu, attended as guest of honour.

The programme began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, signalling the start of an event that reflected the school's core values of discipline, creativity, and perseverance. A series of cultural performances showcased the diverse talents of students and their deep connection with India's cultural heritage.

DIG HARCHARAN BHULLAR'S ARREST INDICATES RAMPANT CORRUPTION IN TOP
RANKS: PUNJAB GOVERNOR

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria on Friday said the arrest of Ropar Range DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar in a graft case served as a wake-up call as it showed "rampant corruption in higher echelons". He wondered how could corruption on such a scale went unnoticed despite vast administrative machinery in place. "Why we could not see it," he asked calling the situation unfortunate. Referring to news reports that Rs 7 crore in cash was recovered from Bhullar's residence, Kataria said the amount couldn't have been accumulated in a single day. "If such wrongdoing was happening in plain sight, then the system itself is accountable," the Governor said addressing mediapersons on the sidelines of a programme at Nabha's Punjab Public School. Before leaving the venue, the Governor said the arrest would instil faith among people that "all was not lost yet". He also called for introspections as the state machinery failed to detect misconduct at such a senior level despite the state government's anti-corruption drive.



TRAGEDY IN MANSA: PUNJAB
ROADWAYS BUS CRUSHES 2

SISTERS; FATHER, BROTHER CRITICAL
Diary Times Desk : A Punjab Roadways bus ran over three school-going children and their father in Jhuneer town of Mansa district this morning. While two girls died on the spot, their father and younger brother sustained serious injuries in the accident.

The deceased have been identified as Seema Kaur (8) and Meena Kaur (15), residents of Jhuneer. Their father, Binder Ram, and brother were rushed to a nearby hospital in critical condition for immediate treatment.

Meanwhile, the bodies of the deceased girls were taken to the Sardulgarh hospital by ambulance for post-mortem examination. The police have impounded the Punjab Roadways bus (registration number PB31P9697) and initiated an investigation into the incident.

Local residents expressed grief over the tragedy, demanding stricter enforcement of traffic safety measures in the area.

BLAZE AT FIRECRACKER STALL IN
PUNJAB'S HOSHIARPUR



Diary Times Desk : A fire broke out at a firecracker stall in the Bhangi Choe area here on Saturday evening. No one was injured in the incident, police said.

The Bhangi Choe area is an officially designated spot for sale of firecrackers.

The blaze occurred when repair of electric wires at the place led to sparks, which fell on firecrackers, they said.

Station House Officer (City) Sub-Inspector Kiran Singh said a fire tender, already deployed at the spot as a precaution, promptly brought the fire under control, averting a major mishap.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

19-10-2025

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.

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.

RECENT
CONTROVERSIES TIED
TO CORRUPTION, NOT
CASTE: KHATTAR

Diary Times Desk : Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday said attempts were being made to give political or caste colour to recent incidents in Haryana, but those were actually linked to corruption. Speaking in Faridabad at an event marking one year of the Nayab Singh Saini government, Khattar said that corruption remains a key challenge for the country and both the Central and state governments are taking decisive action against it.

“People tried to connect recent events with caste, but they were connected with corruption,” Khattar said in a video statement posted on his official X handle.

RS 5,932.47 CRORE
CREDITED TO FARMERS’
ACCOUNTS UNDER
KHARIF PROCUREMENT

Diary Times Desk : During the ongoing kharif procurement season 2025-26, the Haryana Government has directly transferred Rs 5,932.47 crore into the bank accounts of farmers, ensuring prompt payment at the minimum support price (MSP).

A spokesperson of the Department of Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs said the government is committed to safeguarding the interests of farmers and ensuring that paddy procurement continues smoothly across all grain mandis in the state.

“Keeping in view the interests of farmers, the procurement of paddy is being carried out smoothly in all grain mandis across districts,” the spokesperson said.

He added that Hafed, the Warehousing Corporation and the Food and Supplies Department are actively coordinating procurement operations. Directions have been issued to ensure that farmers do not face any inconvenience while selling their produce. The spokesperson said paddy is being purchased only from farmers registered on the ‘Meri Fasal Mera Byora’ portal. So far, 2,02,812 registered farmers have sold their produce to procurement agencies.

OLD-AGE PENSION HIKE TO RS 3,200; HARYANA CM SAINI SHOWCASES ‘MODI MODEL’ AT ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Friday announced a hike in social security pension from Rs 3,000 to Rs 3,200 per month, effective November 1, marking the completion of one year of the state government’s third consecutive term.

Addressing a state-level function in Panchkula, Saini said the increase reflected the government’s ongoing commitment to inclusive welfare and the Antyodaya philosophy of reaching the last person in line.

“Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, the key Sankalps of our government are being steadily fulfilled and development is reaching every corner of the state,” the Chief Minister said. Highlighting key achievements, Saini announced that 8,029 new plots have been allotted to families in 141 villages and two mega panchayats under the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas Yojana, along with 518 plots in Pinjore city under the Urban Phase-II Housing Scheme.



4 DRUG PEDDLERS ARRESTED WITH
305KG ‘DODA POST’ WORTH RS 40
LAKH; 2 VEHICLES SEIZED

Diary Times Desk : A special detective unit of the Kaithal police arrested four persons allegedly involved in drug peddling and recovered 305.1kg doda post, worth Rs 40 lakh from two vehicles. As per police officials, it was a step under the ‘drug free Kaithal’ campaign being carried out on the directions of the Superintendent of Police (SP) Upasana.

During a press briefing, DSP Sushil Prakash informed that the operation was carried out under the supervision of sub-inspector Ramesh Kumar, in-charge of the special detective unit, along with sub-inspector Mukesh Kumar and his team. While patrolling, the team received a tip-off that two white cars were transporting a large quantity of doda post from Khanauri bypass towards Kaithal via Padla road. Acting swiftly, the police set up a naka on Padla road and began checking vehicles. Around 6 am, two white cars — bearing Haryana and Uttar Pradesh registration numbers — approached the checkpoint. On being signalled to stop, the drivers attempted to flee, but the alert police team swiftly overpowered and apprehended all four occupants.

‘WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THIS CASE’, HC ASKS PETITIONER SEEKING CBI PROBE

Diary Times Desk : About 10 days after senior IPS officer Y Puran Kumar “allegedly died by suicide”, the matter today reached the Punjab and Haryana High Court with the filing of a petition in public interest seeking a CBI probe. Taking up the matter, the Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry adjourned the hearing after questioning the PIL-petitioner’s counsel on the guidelines laid down by the apex court for transferring matters to an independent body.

At the onset, the counsel for petitioner Navneet Kumar argued that one of the officials conducting investigation had also committed suicide, and the incident had shaken the conscience of society. “Senior officials are committing suicide and alleging victimisation and naming more than dozen of senior IPS and IAS officers. As such, it is a matter of concern. Humble submission is that some Central agency can conduct a fair investigation,” the counsel stated. Chief Justice Nagu questioned the counsel on circumstances warranting the transfer of investigation to the CBI. “What is so special about this case? When do we hand over investigation to CBI? Which are those decisions of the Supreme Court? There has to be some extraordinary circumstances”.

DIRECT ASSAULT ON RULE OF LAW:
SC FLAGS RISE IN DIGITAL ARREST SCAMS

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

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

“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.



Israel Identifies Body Of Tenth Hostage As A 75-Year-Old Man

The body of a tenth deceased hostage returned to Israel from Gaza under the recent ceasefire deal has been identified as the truce entered a second week despite facing a number of tests and with the next steps unresolved.

"Kibbutz Nir Oz announces the return for burial of our beloved Eliyahu (Churchill) Margalit, of blessed memory," a spokesperson for the kibbutz, or village, said in a statement.

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) confirmed the identity of Margalit, who was 75 at the time he was killed in the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, two years ago. His body was later taken to Gaza, the Israeli military said.

"We will always remember him as a kind-hearted man whose world was filled with family, kibbutz, nature, and animals," the kibbutz said.

There are now 18 deceased hostages left in Gaza following the return of Margalit's body. Frustration has intensified in Israel over the delay in returning the bodies of remaining hostages, a condition outlined in the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas that went into effect last week.



Oren Lieberman

The Rafah border crossing, a key gateway that connects Gaza to Egypt, has yet to open.

Hamas has said that it handed over all of the hostage remains that it could access. Israeli intelligence has assessed that Hamas may not be able to find and return all the remaining dead hostages in Gaza.

For its part, Israeli intelligence has assessed that Hamas may not be able to find and return all the remaining dead hostages in Gaza.

Even so, Israel believes that Hamas does know the locations of some of the deceased hostages it claims are missing, according to two Israeli sources familiar with the matter, and Israel's Foreign Minister has accused Hamas of trying to use them as bargaining chips.

Hamas' armed wing, al-Qassam Brigades, has previously called for help, saying on Wednesday that "significant efforts and special equipment" are needed to recover the bodies of the remaining hostages.

In that statement, al-Qassam Brigades said it has "abided by what was agreed upon and has handed over all the living captives in its possession and the corpses it could access."

Ceasefire holds despite killings

For the moment, both sides appear to believe the ceasefire in Gaza is holding though not without coming under strain from the failure of Hamas to return all the bodies, the initially slow entry of aid into the enclave, and continued, if isolated, incidents of killings of Palestinians in Israeli strikes.

A Palestinian family travelling back to their home in the north of the Gaza were killed by the Israeli military on Friday after their vehicle crossed a line that marks Israel's control under the ceasefire agreement, the spokesperson for Gaza's Civil Defense, Mahmoud Basal, told CNN.

The vehicle was carrying 11 civilians, including several women and children, Basal said. After coordinating with the United Nations, Gaza's civil defense recovered on Saturday nine bodies, including four children and three women. The bodies of two other children are missing, the civil defense said.

The Israeli military told CNN its troops "fired warning shots" after a "suspicious vehicle was identified crossing the yellow line" - a reference to the initial Israeli withdrawal line. The military said the "vehicle continued to approach the troops in a way that caused an imminent threat to them." Hamas has accused Israel of violating the ceasefire with such killings, but no retaliatory action was taken as of Saturday.

Israel has also allowed more aid to enter in recent days but aid groups are calling for the opening of more crossings to improve deliveries.

Uncertainty Surrounds

MORE THAN 100 PALESTINIAN BODIES HANDED OVER BY ISRAEL

Palestinian forensic experts are working to identify 120 bodies returned to Gaza by Israel marked only with numbers, some of whom were blindfolded, bound at the hands and feet, or bearing gunshot wounds.



Abeer Salman

Most of the bodies appear to belong to young men, and those who are clothed appear to be wearing civilian clothes. Some of the bodies had dirt on them. One with what appeared to be an IV cannula still in the arm.

It's unclear whether the 120 individuals whose remains were returned this week died in Israel's custody, in Gaza during the war, or were killed in Israel as they took part in the October 7, 2023, terror attack.

CNN has reached out to the Israeli Prime Minister's Office, health ministry, foreign ministry, justice ministry and the Israel Prison Service for comment, but has not heard back.

Only a handful of the 120 bodies have been identified so far. Two were named publicly by family members on social media as having participated in the assault on Israel on October 7, when thousands of Palestinians breached the perimeter fence.



Another expert who examined the same photographs also said the deceased individual was bound and that the blindfold was likely applied before death, while the track marks appeared to have been caused after death.

Many were militants who went on to kill 1,200 people and kidnap 251 others, mostly civilians, in communities across southern Israel. Others were ordinary Gazans who crossed into Israel but didn't participate in the attacks.

The unidentified remains were handed over by Israel to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which then delivered them to the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis, Gaza, where forensic experts began examining them.

An official from the Ministry of Health in Gaza told CNN each of the bodies had a document that indicated they were, at some point, held at Sde Teiman, a military base in the Negev desert, and that DNA tests had been performed on them there.

The base has been used by Israel as a detention center, where a number of cases of abuse of Palestinian detainees had been reported during the war in Gaza.

After the October 7 attacks, Israeli first responders were overwhelmed by the number of bodies found across multiple attack sites.

At that time, members of the ZAKA, an Israeli volunteer search and rescue organization that was called in to recover the bodies near the Israel-Gaza perimeter, told CNN that the victims were taken to the Shura Army Base, while remains of the attackers were stored at a different base in the Negev desert. Doctors at the forensic department at Gaza's Nasser Hospital described to CNN the state they found the bodies that were handed over this week, saying they showed "signs of abuse and torture."

"Each martyr is given a number, and all martyrs are bound at the hands and feet. Some are blindfolded, and there are signs of gunshot wounds," the doctors said. The health ministry official said the bodies had broken bones and looked like they had been "crushed by heavy vehicles."

CNN has seen photographs, including closeup shots, of some of the bodies. Zip ties, blindfolds, and gunshot wounds are clearly visible on some of them.

INFA

Immigration Crackdown

DHS STATEMENTS ON ARRESTS FACE A PROBLEM OF CREDIBILITY

A series of public statements from the Department of Homeland Security during its migrant crackdown in Chicago and across the country has been contradicted or undermined by local officials, a civil rights attorney and a legal filing.



Josh Campbell

Brockman was released without charges - either for obstructing justice or assault - after about seven hours of detention, according to her attorneys.

These issues have been particularly notable in three prominent incidents: the arrest of a WGN employee, the shooting of a US citizen accused of ramming police vehicles and ICE's detention of a 13-year-old in Massachusetts.

A closer look at the incidents underscores the broader skepticism of the Department of Homeland Security's statements as federal agencies have moved into city streets in Chicago and elsewhere.

Last week, a federal judge temporarily halted the Trump administration's deployment of National Guard troops in Illinois, saying its statements about protests were "not reliable." The administration had highlighted several arrests for carrying weapons and assaulting federal agents - but the judge responded that federal grand juries had refused to indict at least three of those arrested, indicating a lack of probable cause.

"In addition to demonstrating a potential lack of candor by these affiliates, it also calls into question their ability to accurately assess the facts," US District Court Judge April Perry wrote in her order of those incidents.

A judge openly questioning the credibility of law enforcement reflects a larger problem and raises questions as to what recourse ordinary citizens or immigrants have when accused. "A lawyer's credibility isn't just about personal integrity; it's a factor judges are required to consider when ruling," said Elliott Williams, CNN legal analyst and former federal prosecutor.

"Simply put, parties lose when courts find their lawyers untrustworthy. DHS's problem is how alarmingly consistent judges have been with their questions about the department's work and its attorneys' trustworthiness."

The Trump administration has appealed the ruling. DHS has said it is targeting arrests of the "worst of the worst," and its agents are facing a surge in attacks against them.

To understand this credibility issue, CNN took a closer look at DHS statements about the three high-profile incidents involving federal immigration enforcement. Asked about the contradictions between the DHS statements and other evidence, a spokesperson said, "We stand by

everything we have previously said."

Arrest of WGN employee Video from a bystander last week captured the arrest of an employee working for the Chicago TV station WGN.

In the video, officers put the employee, Debbie Brockman, in handcuffs while she lies prone on the ground, her pants falling down. The officers then put her in an unmarked vehicle and leave the scene.

"I asked the agents like, well, why are you detaining this person?" Josh Thomas, the witness who took the video of the arrest, told CNN. "They basically tell me she's obstructing justice."

Thomas said he did not witness Brockman's interaction with the agents before she was detained.



IN THE FRAME: ARTIST STÉPHANE THIDET

What inspired your transformation of Christie's for Paris Art Week?

There are several important ideas that led me to this installation: the notion of transmission, a common thread, what creates a link, what is recurrent. These thoughts apply to objects that pass through Christie's, going from one hand to another. The history of the building also inspired me.

Many of your installations are in quiet spaces, while this is in a busy city. Has that changed your approach?

It seems important to me that a work of art, though obviously aimed at an audience, should also address the context in which it is located. I have been lucky enough to be invited to work in many places conducive to contemplation — and in such places, whether an abbey or a museum, visitors expect to see, to look, to immerse themselves.

When I work in public spaces, on the other hand, passers-by find themselves becoming viewers quite unexpectedly. As with Rideau in Nantes (where the façade of a theatre was transformed into a waterfall), or Impact in Le Havre (where jets of water strike each other in mid-air), I often introduce a slight distortion or a simple addition to what is already there, so that things we forget to look at out of habit resonate again.

Is Le Fil Rouge influenced by other installation artists, such as Christo and Jeanne-Claude?

Obviously, those two artists are part of my cultural landscape, and many of their projects have had an impact on me. More broadly, artists like Gordon Matta-Clark and Michael Heizer have always fascinated me with their ability to produce work on just the right scale for a given building, place or landscape. But while working on Le Fil Rouge, it was the idea of lines, rhythms, windings and weaving that preoccupied me, and it was artists such as Vera Molnár and Pierrette Bloch that I had in mind.

Does it reference the building's history as the former home of the fashion house Callot Soeurs?

Yes, absolutely. Wherever it's possible and meaningful, I like the idea of awakening the spirit of a place. And this building already had a beautiful story: these four sisters were adventurers in their industry. And their journey touched me all the more because my own grandmother worked in a fashion house when she first arrived in Paris from the countryside, and tales of her adventures were part of my childhood.

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

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

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

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

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

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



'THERE HAS BEEN NO UNANIMITY' – REAL MADRID BOSS MAKES FEELINGS CLEAR ON VILLARREAL-BARCELONA MATCH IN MIAMI



Diary Times Desk : Real Madrid manager Xabi Alonso addressed the media ahead of his team's upcoming La Liga clash against Getafe, and unsurprisingly, one of the hottest topics on the agenda was the highly-debated Villarreal vs Barcelona match set to take place in Miami.

Barcelona's potential league fixture being moved to the United States has divided Spanish football.

While La Liga president Javier Tebas continues to push the idea as a way to globalise the league, several clubs, including Real Madrid, have voiced strong opposition, calling it a move that goes against sporting integrity. On Sunday at the Coliseum Alfonso Perez, Real Madrid are expected to take part in a symbolic protest initiated by the Spanish Footballers' Association (AFE). Players will pause for the opening seconds of the ninth round of La Liga matches in response to what they describe as an attempt to "distort the competition."

FINANCIAL FIGURES OF BARCELONA'S NEW SPOTIFY DEAL – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : While Barcelona's collaboration with Spotify as primary sponsor was initially seen with much scepticism, the move turned out to be beneficial for both the club and the music streaming giants far beyond what was expected. The deal saw Spotify take over as the club's primary sponsor until 2026 and also earn the naming rights for the home stadium, making it the Spotify Camp Nou. After a successful collaboration to this point, both parties were unsurprisingly keen to take the collaboration forward and agreed on an extension until 2030 with better terms on Friday. The new terms As relayed by SPORT in a recent report, Barcelona have earned better economic terms on the renewed deal until 2030 and could earn as much as €460 million through the same period as per its new validity. The contract that has been extended by four seasons, after all, includes the rights to be the first sponsor not only for the men's and women's teams but also for the training kits, which comprehensively cover all of Barcelona's apparel. As per the new agreement, Spotify will pay Barcelona €75 million per season – €65 million for the sponsorship of jerseys and €10 million for the sponsorship of training jerseys.

BARCELONA TARGET WILL LEAVE AS FREE AGENT IN 2026, CONFIRMS MANAGER – 'HE HAS ALREADY TOLD US...'

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona's centre-back department took a massive blow when Inigo Martinez left the club in the summer to move to Al-Nassr, leaving Hansi Flick in a dire situation where he had no option but to adjust to the new normal.

Young Pau Cubarsi has continued as a regular starter for the club in defence, but no partner has complemented him as well as Martinez did.

In fact, the manager has spent much of his valuable time working out the various permutations and combinations, albeit to not much avail.

The club's priority, thus, continues to be to sign a new centre-back in the summer – one who can serve as a regular starter alongside Cubarsi in the long run – and Crystal Palace's defender Marc Guehi has emerged as a potential target.

Guehi's departure is confirmed Speaking to the media recently, Crystal Palace manager Oliver Glasner was asked about the defender's situation and future at the club, especially given the endless links with clubs from across the world.

FRENKIE DE JONG TALKS CONTRACT RENEWAL, MESSI, FLICK, CRITICISM – 'THEY WANTED TO SELL ME TO MAKE MONEY'

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona captain Frenkie de Jong spoke with El Pais (h/t Mundo Deportivo) after officially renewing his contract with the club until 2029, celebrating the decision to remain at the team he joined in July 2019.

De Jong reflected on his commitment to the club despite past financial pressures and potential offers to sell him. He explained his mindset during those times:

"I've always been clear that I wanted to stay at Barcelona. I've always been happy with the team and playing here. "There was a time when there was more pressure, just as there was another time when there were people at the club who wanted to sell me to make money." Acknowledging the club's difficult financial situation at the time, De Jong highlighted that he never wavered in his desire to stay:



OFFICIAL: BARCELONA ANNOUNCE SQUAD LIST TO FACE GIRONA

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have officially announced their squad list to face Girona in a few hours, and as expected, the situation ahead of the game is far from ideal.

The international break was expected to give the team a chance to reset after back-to-back defeats to PSG and Sevilla. Instead, it has brought more bad news, with several key players ruled out through injury.

The absences continue to mount for Hansi Flick, who already had to do without Gavi, Marc-Andre ter Stegen, Joan Garcia, and Raphinha.

Later, Ferran Torres, Dani Olmo, and Robert Lewandowski also joined the growing injury list.

This series of setbacks leaves Barcelona severely weakened, particularly in attack, forcing Flick to rethink his tactical approach and look for unconventional solutions.

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA STARTING LINEUP AGAINST GIRONA

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have revealed their starting lineup for the clash against Girona, and as expected, Hansi Flick has had to make significant changes to his attack due to injuries.

With Robert Lewandowski, Ferran Torres, and Dani Olmo all unavailable, Flick has turned to Marcus Rashford to lead the line.

The English forward will be supported by Lamine Yamal on the right and Toni Fernandez on the left, offering pace and creativity in the attacking third.

Flick also had other attacking options, including Fermin Lopez, but ultimately opted for Toni Fernandez, showing his faith in the youngster's ability to make an impact from the start.

The defensive line sees Jules Kounde at right-back, while the centre of defence remains unchanged with Eric Garcia and Pau Cubarsi, providing stability at the back despite a depleted squad.

In midfield, the big surprise is the inclusion of Marc Casado, who will be tasked with supporting Frenkie de Jong and Pedri.

Despite the heavy workload both De Jong and Pedri have carried so far this season, Flick has decided against resting them, underlining the importance of securing all three points against Girona.

Barcelona are keen to respond following their heavy defeat against Sevilla in the previous league matchday.

Meanwhile, Wojciech Szczesny will continue in goal, taking over for Joan Garcia, who remains sidelined for several more weeks due to injury.