

NEWS IN BRIEF

FAKE ORS DRINKS BANNED: HYDERABAD DOCTOR'S 8-YEAR FIGHT SPARKS ACTION BY FSSAI

Diary Times Desk : In a landmark decision, India's food regulator has issued a sweeping ban on the use of the term "ORS" in the branding of beverages that do not meet the medically mandated composition of true oral rehydration solutions. The move comes after years of advocacy by paediatrician Dr Sivaranjini Santhosh in Hyderabad, who documented alarming cases of children developing life-threatening dehydration despite being administered drinks marketed as ORS. These so-called "repair solution" drinks reportedly contained excessive sugar and inadequate salt and electrolyte ratios, undermining their intended purpose. The regulator's directive closes a dangerous loophole exploited by some beverage companies and marks

JAGAN MOHAN REDDY RETURNS FROM LONDON

Diary Times Desk : Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party President YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has returned to India after his personal visit to London.

He had left for London on October 11 to visit his elder daughter. The party stated on Monday, stating that YS Jagan returned to Bengaluru on Monday morning and will arrive in Tadepalli on Tuesday.

It may be recalled that a special court for CBI cases in Hyderabad had permitted Jagan to visit London.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which is probing the disproportionate assets case against Jagan, had later approached the court seeking cancellation of the travel permit granted to him. It is alleged that Jagan did not provide his own phone number, thus violating the bail conditions.

The matter is likely to come up for hearing later this week.

Meanwhile, Jagan Mohan Reddy has extended heartfelt Diwali greetings to the Telugu people worldwide. He wished that the Festival of Lights would bring happiness, peace, and prosperity into every household.

JUSTICE ATUL SREEDHARAN

transfers and appointments in India.

A pro-liberty judge

Justice Sreedharan has earned a reputation as a judge who sticks to the rules. Appointed as a permanent judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court in 2018, in 2023 he requested a transfer to the Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, citing a conflict of interest as his daughter practised law in Madhya Pradesh.

However, in March, just a month before he was set to take charge as Chief Justice of the J&K High Court, he was transferred back to Madhya Pradesh. Upon his return, Justice Sreedharan became one of the senior-most judges and a member of the High Court's collegium, known for his pro-civil rights outlook and penchant for issuing suo motu orders, even in politically sensitive cases. Lawyers Scroll spoke to said his frequent transfers were likely a result of his judicial record that often rubbed the government the wrong way.

In July 2024, while at the J&K High Court, Justice Sreedharan quashed a preventive detention order issued under the Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978, calling it "twisted reasoning" by the District Magistrate, Jammu. He imposed a ₹10,000 personal fine on the officer, describing the detention as "unjustifiable."

'NAMAK HARAM', 'WON'T ALLOW NAMAZ': BJP MPS' COMMUNAL REMARKS DRAW FIRE

Diary Times Desk : A Union minister has declared he does not want the votes of the "namak haram," or the ungrateful, in a remark that appears to be aimed at Muslims weeks before the Bihar assembly elections, triggering widespread political condemnation.

Giriraj Singh, the BJP's MP from Begusarai, told a poll rally in Arwal district on Saturday that citizens who accept government welfare have a moral obligation to vote for the ruling party. He appeared to use the term for Muslims who benefit from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's schemes but do not support the BJP.

In a video of the speech, Singh recounted an alleged conversation with a cleric. "So I told him that one who doesn't acknowledge help is called a namak haram," the minister is heard saying.

"I told him, 'Maulvi Saheb, I don't want the votes of the namak haram,'" he said.

Despite facing criticism on Sunday (October 19), Singh stood by his remarks, telling reporters he meant only to highlight that government welfare schemes were non-discriminatory. After a video showed Muslim women offering prayers at the site, Kulkarni and activists "purified" the spot with cow urine and performed a Hindu ritual.

"We will not allow 'namaz' in Shaniwarwada, Hindu community has now become awakened," she tweeted before the protest. She later defended the action, stating, "It is a symbol of Hindavi Swaraj... We cannot allow anyone to offer namaz here. It is not a mosque."

**CHANDIGARH BUSINESSMAN GIFTS 51 LUXURY CARS TO TEAM MEMBERS FOR THIRD YEAR IN ROW**

Diary Times Desk : Social worker and entrepreneur MK Bhatia, known for his unique gestures every year, is once again making headlines this Diwali. His car gifting reels have gone viral on social media, capturing widespread attention. Continuing his annual tradition, Bhatia has gifted luxury cars to his colleagues and celebrity team members for the third consecutive year, becoming the talk of the town once again.

This year, Bhatia reached a new milestone by gifting a total of 51 brand-new cars, marking what he humorously called a "half-century" of car gifting. Following the grand gesture, the team organized a "Car Gift Rally" from the showroom to Mits House, which turned heads across the city. When asked why he gifts such expensive cars every year, Bhatia shared a heartfelt explanation.

"My associates are the backbone of my pharmaceutical companies. Their hard work, honesty, and dedication are the foundation of our success. Recognizing their efforts and motivating them is my only goal — to keep them inspired and driven toward greater heights." Bhatia emphasized that the gesture is not about showmanship, but about strengthening team spirit and fostering a family-like bond within the organization. "When the team is happy," he added, "the company naturally grows." His reels and photos have been spreading rapidly on social media, with netizens applauding his generosity. Many have called his initiative a "benchmark of motivation in modern corporate culture."

JUSTICE SREEDHARAN TRANSFER: IS MODI GOVERNMENT PUNISHING A PRO-LIBERTY JUDGE?

Diary Times Desk : On Wednesday, the Supreme Court of India announced that it had modified its earlier recommendation regarding the transfer of Justice Atul Sreedharan, following a request from the Union government.

Earlier in August, the Supreme Court collegium had proposed transferring Justice Sreedharan, one of the senior-most judges of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, to the Chhattisgarh High Court. However, within a month, the Modi government sought a reconsideration of that decision. Complying with the request, the collegium revised its recommendation, transferring Justice Sreedharan to the Allahabad High Court instead.

While no explanation has been provided by either the collegium or the government for this abrupt change, this now means that Sreedharan will be a junior judge and will not be part of the collegium that selects new judges.

This incident underscores the opacity and possible executive interference that continue to cloud the system of judicial

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

HARISH RAO RAISES CONCERN OVER LAW AND ORDER DECLINE IN TELANGANA

Diary Times Desk : Raising deep concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Telangana, former Minister T Harish Rao said even the police were not safe under the Congress government. He condemned the recent killing of a police constable at the hands of a rowdy/sheeter.

Speaking after offering prayers at the Goddess Bhagyalakshmi temple near Charminar on the occasion of Diwali on Monday, Harish Rao said Hyderabad had always been a symbol of communal harmony, with Hindus and Muslims respecting each other's faiths. He prayed for peace, prosperity, and progress for the people of Telangana.

"It is unfortunate that even the police, who protect citizens, are left defenceless. Despite being the Home Minister, the Chief Minister has failed to maintain law and order," he said.

He demanded that the government extend full support and provide a government job to a family member of the deceased constable.

Harish Rao also questioned the Congress government over allegations involving Minister Konda Surekha's family and the growing gun culture in the State. He said despite allegations made by the Minister's daughter, the police did not initiate any action. He reiterated his demand for a judicial probe into the allegations and accountability from the Chief Minister.

"While the previous BRS government made Telangana a hub for investment, this Congress government has turned it into a State of fear and factionalism," he said.

RS 2.89-LAKH LIQUOR SEIZED FROM DIG'S FARMHOUSE, EXCISE CASE REGISTERED

Diary Times Desk : Harcharan Singh Bhullar, suspended DIG, Ropar Range, has now been booked under the Excise Act as the CBI seized 108 bottles of liquor worth Rs 2.89 lakh during a search at his farmhouse — Mehla Farms — at Bondli village in Samrala on October 16.

Samrala DSP Tarlochan Singh confirmed that an FIR had been registered at the Samrala police station on a statement of CBI Inspector Romkpal.

The case was registered under Sections 61 (pertaining to unlawful activities such as possession or transport of intoxicants, 1 and 14 (which grants officers the power to summon individuals for evidence) of the Excise Act. Besides the liquor, the CBI also seized 17 bullets, but charges under the Arms Act have not been added to the FIR as it is yet to be verified whether these belong to a licensed weapon or not. The value of the recovered liquor as mentioned in the FIR is Rs 2.89 lakh.

BENGALURU'S TRAFFIC-FREE ROADS SURPRISE COMMUTERS DURING DIWALI: 'REACHED 14 KM IN 20 MINS'

Diary Times Desk : As Diwali celebrations swept across the country, Bengaluru's infamous traffic vanished almost overnight. A short clip posted by Instagram user @Genextechie captured the moment: a 14-km commute completed in just 20 minutes, filmed from an auto rickshaw gliding through near-empty streets. The video's overlay read, "When entire Bengaluru is out of Bengaluru due to Diwali, you reached 14 km in 20 mins."

The clip triggered a wave of reactions from commuters and residents alike. One user wrote, "Even I was relieved in metro," while another quipped, "I think I'm in another Bengaluru... still stuck in traffic." A few pushed back, noting that not all areas were congestion-free: "Not really, we are stuck in traffic."

Another commented on the city's demographic churn: "What do I do in Bangalore? Roads are empty. Seems like everyone except Bangaloreans live in Bangalore." A broader sentiment echoed across platforms: "Right now, all the Tier 1 cities are practically empty, that legendary metro traffic problem? Gone. Everyone's packed up and left for their hometowns to celebrate Diwali 2025 with family."

One post captured the mood with cultural nuance: "Bengaluru situation right now. Deepavali guys stayed, Diwali guys left. Khali khali roads is a bliss Just days before the festive exodus, Bengaluru's Outer Ring Road was gridlocked after a bus breakdown, forcing motorists to crawl 12 km in nearly two hours. Anticipating the rush, authorities had issued travel advisories for key exit routes including Hebbal, Mysuru Road, and Hosur Road.

IN RJD'S BIHAR CANDIDATES LIST, SIGNS OF TUSSLE WITH ALLY CONGRESS



Muslim candidates.

With the RJD announcing 143 candidates, the Mahagathbandhan's seat-sharing formula stands at RJD (143), Congress (55), CPIML (20), CPI (6), CPM (4) and VIP (15). Interestingly, the Congress has already announced candidates for 60 seats, and some constituencies will see friendly fights.

Seat-sharing has been a sore point in both the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan camps. But while NDA partners have tried to show a united front, the INDIA Bloc appears to be a divided house in the run-up to the election. Leaders in both RJD and the Congress have, however, downplayed differences.

Diary Times Desk : With two weeks to go for the Bihar Assembly election, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has released a list of 143 candidates for the upcoming polls. In signs that all is not well within the Mahagathbandhan, the RJD has fielded candidates in four seats where its ally, the Congress, has already announced candidates. The RJD list has 24 women and 18

DEEPAWALI: THE TRIUMPH OF SACRED LIGHT, PUSHING BACK THE EVIL AND MALEVOLENT FORCES

Diary Times Desk : The season of autumn emerges resplendent following the monsoon showers. Mother Earth, with its storehouse of seuli and kaash flowers, initiates the interplay of light and darkness. This is the season that celebrates the triumph of light of goodness over the forces of evil and malevolent forces through a string of festivals. The celebration of light pervades various religions during this time. Guru Nanak-Ji's birthday, celebrated during this time by the Sikh and Sindh communities, underscores the auspiciousness of the time. Nanakji brought new light and life to his community, ushering in a nascent spiritual liberation. The Christians commemorate and celebrate their deceased through the All-Souls' Day on the second of November. Light pervades the propitious occasion, lighting up the cemetery and other places with candles.

NMC ADDS 10,650 NEW UG MEDICAL SEATS, RECEIVES PROPOSAL FOR 3,500 PG SEATS

Diary Times Desk : The National Medical Commission (NMC) has approved the addition of 10,650 new MBBS seats and 41 new medical colleges in India for the academic year 2025-26. This initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment made on Independence Day 2024 to establish 75,000 new medical seats over a span of five years. Consequently, this raises the total from 1,17,750 in the academic year 2024-25 to 1,37,600 in 2025-26.

The NMC has also received proposals for 3,500 new and renewed seats for postgraduate courses, bringing the total number of seats this year to 67,000, as reported by PTI. The overall increase in both undergraduate and postgraduate seats this year will amount to around 15,000.

The process of seat allotment for round 3 of NEET UG counselling is currently in progress, and the results were declared on October 18 according to the official schedule, after which the reporting for college admissions began.

Registration for round 1 of NEET PG counselling started on October 18, 2025, and the counselling schedule is expected to be released soon.

"AKHILESH YADAV ENEMY OF SANATANIS": BJP ON REMARKS OVER DIWALI EXPENSES



Diary Times Desk : Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav is an "enemy of sanatanis", Union Minister Giriraj Singh said on Monday, as he hit out at the opposition leader over his controversial remarks on lighting diyas during the annual Ayodhya Deepotsav event. "He is an enemy of sanatanis and Hindus. He has a problem with Diwali but not with Christmas," Singh said. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader's remarks came two days after Yadav raised questions on the Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government's expenditure on lighting diyas and candles during the Deepotsav celebration and suggested it should learn from the arrangements made worldwide to illuminate cities during Christmas.

THE BYPOLL AT THE BJD STRONGHOLD OF NUAPADA CAN DECIDE ODISHA'S POLITICAL FUTURE

Diary Times Desk : The Congress is proving to be the dark horse in Odisha's Nuapada by-election. The by-election for Nuapada assembly constituency – part of Kalahandi Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha – scheduled for November 11 is taking an interesting turn. The election was necessitated because of the death of a four-term Biju Janata Dal MLA last month. This by poll has assumed significance as it happens to be the first test of popular support after the BJP swept aside the 24-year long BJD rule in the state in May 2024. It's clearly a prestige battle among Mohan Majhi, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party chief minister, Naveen Patnaik, leader of the principal opposition the BJD and Bhakta Charan Das, president of the fast-rising Odisha Congress. It presages a fierce battle among these three leaders for varying reasons.

BURSTING OF FIRECRACKERS ALLOWED FROM 8 PM TO 10 PM ON DIWALI

Diary Times Desk : The Ludhiana police have allowed bursting of crackers on Diwali for two hours. Residents can burst crackers from 8 pm to 10 pm on the festival. Besides, the police have also allowed to burst crackers on the occasion of Gurburb between 4 am and 5 am and from 9 pm to 10 pm, on November 5.

Besides, the authorities have issued guidelines for residents and cracker dealers, which are to be followed while celebrating the festivals. The authorities have specifically stated that only "green crackers", which do not contain barium salts or compounds antimony, lithium, mercury, arsenic, lead or strontium chromate, will be allowed for sales and bursting. People having no licence would not be allowed to sell firecrackers and no other than green crackers will be purchased or stocked. The crackers cannot be purchased through any online platform. Bursting of the same will not be allowed near sensitive areas such as hospitals or educational institutes. And it has also been advised to burn firecrackers in the open so that patients or elderly persons should not suffer from respiratory issues. Talking to The Tribune, Commissioner of Police Swapn Sharma said the crackers would be allowed for two hours on both festivals. Sharma said in case of blatant violation of the guidelines, an FIR would be registered against offenders.



WHY JMM DROPPED OUT OF BIHAR CONTEST DAYS AFTER DECLARING IT WOULD GO SOLO

Diary Times Desk : Hemant Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha or JMM has announced that it would not contest the assembly elections in Bihar shortly after declaring that it would go solo and contest six seats in the neighbouring state. The party, which is an ally in the Opposition INDIA bloc, has attributed its earlier decision to a "political conspiracy" by its allies - Lalu Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress. It also said it would re-evaluate the alliance with them in Jharkhand, making it clear that the rift within the Grand Alliance will have wider ramifications. The JMM, though, said they had deprived it of seats in Bihar. Both parties are part of Chief Minister Soren's government in Jharkhand. "The RJD and the Congress are responsible for keeping JMM from contesting the election as part of a political conspiracy. JMM will give a befitting reply to this, and review its alliance with RJD and Congress," said Kumar, who is also the state tourism minister.

"Political games were played with JMM... We will not support any political party there. Mahagathbandhan will suffer the consequences of JMM not being a part of it in these elections," he added.

CYCLONE ALERT ISSUED FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Diary Times Desk : The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a 'cyclone alert' in Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify from October 21, officials said on Monday.

Local port warnings have been issued in the wake of the weather system, which is likely to cause heavy rainfall till October 23, they said.

"Heavy rain (7-11 cm) is very likely to occur at one or two places over Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorms with gusty wind (40-50 kmph) and lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands on October 21, 22 and 23," an official said.

Thunderstorms with gusty wind (40-50 kmph) and lightning are very likely to occur at one or two places over Andaman and Nicobar Islands on October 24 and 25, he said.

"Squally weather with surface wind speed reaching 35-45 kmph gusting to 55 kmph is very likely over the Andaman Sea from October 22 to 23. In the coming five days, sea conditions are likely to be rough and fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea.

DELHI'S AIR QUALITY WORSENS ON DIWALI; 34 OUT OF 38 STATIONS IN 'RED ZONE'



Diary Times Desk : Delhi's air quality deteriorated on Diwali, with 34 out of 38 monitoring stations recording pollution levels in the 'red zone' on Monday, indicating 'very poor' to 'severe' air across the national capital.

Delhi's 24-hour average air quality index (AQI), which is reported at 4 pm every day, remained in the 'very poor' category at 345, higher than the 326 recorded on Sunday, according to official data.

According to the SAMEER app developed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), four monitoring stations were already in the 'severe' category with AQI levels above 400 -- Dwarka (417), Ashok Vihar (404), Wazirpur (423) and Anand Vihar (404).

Around 30 monitoring stations reported 'very poor' air, with AQI levels above 300.

CONGRESS NAMES SIX MORE CANDIDATES FOR BIHAR ELECTIONS

Diary Times Desk : The Congress on Monday released another list of six candidates for the Bihar Assembly polls, taking the total number of candidates announced by the party to 60. The Congress' list was announced post-midnight, even as a formal seat-sharing deal has alluded the Mahagathbandhan with the RJD and the Congress, the two main constituents of the alliance, unable to reach an understanding.

According to the list of six candidates, the Congress fielded Surendra Prasad Kushwaha from Valmiki Nagar, Abidur Rehman from Araria, Jalil Mastan from Amour, Tauquir Alam from Barari, Praveen Singh Kushwaha from Kahalgao and Vinod Chaudhary from Sikandra (SC).

Chinks in the INDIA bloc's armour became all too obvious on Sunday in poll-bound Bihar, where disgruntled aspirants in the RJD and the Congress had a field day charging the leadership with having put tickets up for sale.

INDIA WILL CONTINUE PAYING MASSIVE TARIFFS OVER "RUSSIAN OIL", SAYS TRUMP

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has doubled down on his claim that India has agreed to restrict its Russian oil purchases. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, the US leader threatened to impose "massive tariffs" on Indian goods unless New Delhi agreed to his terms and halted its purchases.

"I spoke with Prime Minister Modi of India, and he said he's not going to be doing the Russian oil thing," he said, reiterating what he said in the past week. India last week rejected Trump's claim that he had a telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over New Delhi's Russian oil imports. When asked about India's assertion, he replied, "But if they want to say that, then they'll just continue to pay massive tariffs, and they don't want to do that."

The remarks came amid growing US pressure on Russia's trade partners, particularly in the energy sector, which Washington argues indirectly funds Moscow's war effort in Ukraine.



CRACKERS, DIYAS AND SWEETS: HOW INDIA CELEBRATED DIWALI 2025

Diary Times Desk : Millions across India lit up their homes and streets as the country celebrated Diwali, the festival of lights. The annual celebration, one of India's biggest festivals, brings together families, friends and communities in a spirit of joy and togetherness.

This year, the Supreme Court allowed the use of "green crackers" in Delhi, easing a ban that had been in place since 2020. The move came as a relief for many revellers while still aiming to limit air pollution during the festivities.

In Connaught Place, the city lit up with lights and decorations as families gathered to celebrate.

Diwali is about much more than fireworks. Across the country, families prepare a wide varieties of traditional sweets, share meals, and exchange gifts.

Diwali's charm goes beyond religion. People from all faiths join in lighting diyas, decorating streets, and sharing sweets. In Delhi, Gurdwara Bangla Sahib glowed on the eve of both Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas.

RSS LEADER'S "SPEWING VENOM" BARB AT CONGRESS LEADER PRIYANK KHARGE

Diary Times Desk : Spewing venom about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has become the Congress's habit, a top leader of the organisation has said.

Indresh Kumar, a member of the RSS national executive, responded to Karnataka minister and Congress leader Priyank Kharge's remarks criticising the RSS.

"It is the country's continuing misfortune that instead of fostering freedom, Congress has caused division. Criticising the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh has become a habit for that party. Now, it has become a habit of the Congress party to spew venom about the RSS. They should understand RSS better and should stop talking about RSS," Kumar said.

Kharge has sparked a row after he requested Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah not to allow RSS activities in government schools and colleges.



"LIGHT'S VICTORY OVER DARKNESS":
TRUMP, NETANYAHU OTHER WORLD
LEADERS EXTEND DIWALI WISHES

Diary Times Desk :

US President Donald Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other world leaders extend Diwali greetings on Monday as India celebrated the festival of light with fervour.

US White House extended Diwali greetings, calling the festival "victory of light over darkness."

"Today, I send my best wishes to every American celebrating Diwali--the "Festival of Lights," Trump said in a statement. "For many Americans, Diwali is a timeless reminder of light's victory over darkness. It is also a time to bring families and friends together to celebrate community, draw strength from hope, and embrace a lasting spirit of renewal. As millions of citizens light diyas and lanterns, we rejoice in the eternal truth that good will always triumph over evil. To every American celebrating Diwali, may this observance bring abiding serenity, prosperity, hope, and peace," he said.

SULTAN BIN AHMED CHAIRS
SHARJAH MEDIA COUNCIL MEETING;
DISCUSSES IMPROVING TEAMWORK
IN MEDIA ENTITIES

Diary Times Desk : H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Ahmed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of the Sharjah Media Council, held a regular meeting on Monday at Buhais Geology Park.

At the start of the meeting, H.H. Sheikh Sultan thanked the various organisations working under the Sharjah Media Council for their ongoing efforts to improve media in the emirate, commending the achievements of local media institutions, which aim to enhance the quality and purpose of media messages in the region.

The meeting covered several important topics, including plans to improve the overall media environment and encourage teamwork among media organisations in Sharjah, with the goal of integrating their efforts, share knowledge, and strengthen the emirate's communication identity both locally and globally.

FBI DIRECTOR KASH PATEL EXTENDS DIWALI GREETINGS

Diary Times Desk : Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Kash Patel, on Monday extended Diwali greetings.

In a post on X, he said, "Happy Diwali- celebrating the Festival of Lights around the world, as good triumphs over evil." The Indian Embassy in the US also extended wishes. "On the occasion of Diwali, wishing everybody, health, happiness and prosperity," the Embassy said.

Sergio Gor, Special Envoy to the President, attended Diwali celebrations at India House alongside Ambassador of India to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra. In a post on X, Kwatra said, "Pleasure to host Ambassador and Special Envoy to the President Sergio Gor yesterday at India House for Diwali celebrations before his visit to India."

23 INDIANS RESCUED AFTER FIRE ON LPG
TANKER OFF YEMEN COAST



Diary Times Desk : Twenty-three Indian crew members have been rescued after a fire broke out on board the Cameroon-flagged LPG tanker MV Falcon, following an explosion, off the coast of Aden, Yemen. The incident took place on Saturday, October 18, at 07.00 UTC (local time), when the ship was sailing about 113 nautical miles southeast of Aden on its way to Djibouti. The vessel went adrift after the blast, and about 15 per cent of the ship was on fire. Early reports suggest the explosion was accidental, but the exact cause is still being investigated.

According to British security firm Ambrey, the MV Falcon was travelling from Oman's Sohar Port to Djibouti when the explosion occurred. Radio communication suggested that the crew was preparing to abandon the vessel as a search-and-rescue operation was launched.

TRUMP VOWS TO KEEP 'MASSIVE'
TARIFFS ON INDIA UNTIL RUSSIAN OIL
IMPORTS CEASE

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump reiterated on Sunday that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi told him India will stop buying Russian oil, while warning that New Delhi would continue paying "massive" tariffs if it did not do so. "I spoke with Prime Minister Modi of India, and he said he's not going to be doing the Russian oil thing," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. Asked about India's assertion that it was not aware of any conversation between Modi and Trump, Trump replied: "But if they want to say that, then they'll just continue to pay massive tariffs, and they don't want to do that."

Russian oil has been one of the main irritants for Trump in prolonged trade talks with India - half of his 50% tariffs on Indian goods are in retaliation for those purchases. The US government has said petroleum revenue funds Russia's war in Ukraine.

LOUVRE MUSEUM THEFT!
THIEVES STEAL CROWN
JEWELS IN JUST 4 MINUTES

Diary Times Desk : In a minutes-long strike Sunday inside the world's most-visited museum, thieves rode a basket lift to the Louvre, forced a window into the Galerie d'Apollon - while tourists pressed shoulder-to-shoulder in the corridors - smashed display cases and fled with priceless Napoleonic jewels, officials said. It was among the highest-profile museum thefts in recent memory and comes as Louvre employees have complained of worker and security understaffing. One object was later found outside the museum, according to Culture Minister Rachida Dati. French daily Le Parisien reported it was the emerald-studded crown of Napoleon III's wife Empress Eugénie - gold, diamonds and sculpted eagles - recovered just beyond the walls, broken. Dati called the strike the work of "professionals," describing it on TFI TV network as "a four-minute operation carried out without violence."

TRUMP SAYS UKRAINE'S
DONBAS REGION WILL HAVE
TO BE 'CUT UP' TO END
RUSSIAN INVASION

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump said on Sunday that the Donbas region of Ukraine should be "cut up", leaving most of it in Russian hands, to end a war that has dragged on for nearly four years.

"Let it be cut the way it is," he told reporters aboard Air Force One. "It's cut up right now," adding that you can "leave it the way it is right now."

"They can negotiate something later on down the line," he said. But for now, both sides of the conflict should "stop at the battle line -- go home, stop fighting, stop killing people."

Trump's latest comments came after Ukrainian drones struck a major gas processing plant in southern Russia, sparking a fire and forcing it to suspend its intake of gas from Kazakhstan, Russian and Kazakh authorities said on Sunday.

The Orenburg plant, run by state-owned gas giant Gazprom and located in a region of the same name near the Kazakh border, is part of a production and processing complex that is one of the world's largest facilities of its kind, with an annual capacity of 45 billion cubic metres.

It handles gas condensate from Kazakhstan's Karachaganak field, alongside Orenburg's own oil and gas fields.





NEPAL RETRIEVES BODY OF BIPIN JOSHI, A STUDENT KILLED IN HAMAS CAPTIVITY



Diary Times Desk : Nepal on Monday afternoon received the body of Bipin Joshi, an agriculture student who was killed in Hamas captivity. It was on October 13, after 738 days since his abduction that Nepali authorities got confirmation about his death. With subsequent governments formed since Joshi was abducted, many had believed that he was alive but the peace agreement and hostage release as part of the pact confirmed his status that he is not alive last week.

The Qassam Brigads, the military wing of the Hamas had handed over the body of the four captives after releasing 20 others who were alive.

The statement released by Hamas's armed wing identified the deceased captives as Guy Ilouz, Yossi Sharabi, Bipin Joshi and Daniel Perez.

JAPAN APPROVES SALE OF FIRST OVER-THE-COUNTER EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILL

Diary Times Desk : Japan has given regulatory approval for an over-the-counter contraceptive pill, its manufacturer said on Monday, the first time the socially conservative country has greenlighted so-called "morning-after" medication without a prescription.

Rights groups have long criticised the fact that women in Japan can only access emergency medication to prevent pregnancy with a doctor's prescription and a trip to a clinic or pharmacy.

That puts many women off, particularly rape victims and teenage girls, according to campaigners.

BANKERS ON EDGE, A GILDED CASH ROOM AND US BLAMING CHINA - MY WEEK WITH GLOBAL FINANCE ELITE

Diary Times Desk : There is an eerie emptiness at the seat of US economic power. The US Treasury is in shutdown like much of the federal government. Most staff are furloughed as the world's finance ministers and bankers jet in for the International Monetary Fund annual meetings a few blocks away, their delayed flights handled by a small number of unpaid air traffic controllers. There is, however, one clear message the Trump administration is notably keen to get out, not so much for its domestic audience but for the bewildered world outside. And they delivered it in the middle of last week to a small number of people ushered into the Treasury .

'WE ARE MCGOOD AT INVESTIGATING MCCRIME': SHERIFF'S JOKE-FILLED STATEMENT AFTER MCDONALD'S SHOOTING



Diary Times Desk : A Florida sheriff has described a shooting at a McDonald's drive thru as a "McMess," in a joke-filled statement on social media.

Grady Judd, of Polk County, said trouble started when a branch in Davenport was inundated with online orders at around 3 a.m. on October 12.

Yoan Soto, 21, was working an overnight shift at the fast food chain at the time, Judd explained in a statement on Instagram. When Soto told two customers at the drive-thru - Peter Story, 19, and Nicholas Jones.

AIRPORT INFERNO COULD COST BANGLADESH \$1BN IN DAMAGES - EXPERTS

Diary Times Desk : Business leaders in Bangladesh fear losses of more than \$1bn (£750m) after a devastating fire broke out in the logistics section of the country's main airport on Saturday. Clothes and raw materials were among the goods destroyed, which could put some businesses at risk, according to the country's export associations.

The cause of the fire - which took 27 hours to extinguish - is still being investigated. The blaze had forced the temporary suspension of flights and airport operations.

Bangladesh is the world's second-largest exporter of clothes after China, supplying global retailers like H&M and Walmart.

Bangladesh's garment sector generates around \$40bn a year, accounting for over a tenth of its gross domestic product.

Local media reports say around 35 people were injured while working to contain the blaze.

The damaged airport cargo village is among the country's busiest logistics hubs, especially during the pre-Christmas rush. The centre stored fabrics, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and other goods.

'SEVEN PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN,' TRUMP REPEATS CLAIMS OF AVERTING INDIA-PAKISTAN WAR USING TARIFFS THREATS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Sunday (local time) has once again claimed that he averted a potential war between India and Pakistan by leveraging the threat of heavy tariffs while asserting that "seven planes were shot down" during the heightened tensions in May between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Speaking in an interview with Fox News, Trump said his administration used trade pressure to de-escalate the situation, which he described as being on the brink of a nuclear conflict.

"I've ended, you know, eight wars that we just mentioned. Five of them have been ended because of tariffs. The threat of tariffs, as an example, kept India and Pakistan—two nuclear nations—from going at it," Trump said.

"They were going at it—seven planes were shot down. That's a lot. And they were going at it. That could have been a nuclear war," he added.

Trump's comments on the India-Pakistan conflict refer to the escalation in May following India's Operation Sindoor, a series of precision strikes on nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.



AUSTRALIA ACCUSES CHINA OF 'UNSAFE' MILITARY JET MANOEUVRES

Diary Times Desk : Australia has accused a Chinese military aircraft of releasing flares "in close proximity" to its patrol jet over the South China Sea.

The Australian government has raised its concern with Beijing over the "unsafe and unprofessional" manoeuvre, the defence department said in a statement on Monday. There was no damage to Australia's P-8A aircraft and its personnel were unharmed after Sunday's encounter.

A Chinese military spokesperson said the Australian jet "illegally intruded" into China's airspace and had to be expelled.

The Australian aircraft's actions "seriously infringed upon China's sovereignty", Senior Colonel Li Jianjian, spokesperson for China's Southern Theater Command Air Force said, urging Canberra to "immediately cease its infringing and provocative actions".



FBI PROBES HUNTING STAND WITH DIRECT VIEW OF TRUMP'S AIR FORCE ONE EXIT

Diary Times Desk : The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on Sunday (local time) stated that it has launched an investigation after the US Secret Service (USSS) discovered a suspicious hunting stand with a direct line of sight to the area where US President Donald Trump exits Air Force One at Palm Beach International Airport, Fox News reported, citing officials.

According to Fox News, the elevated stand was found on Thursday during routine security checks ahead of the US President's planned return to West Palm Beach. FBI Director Kash Patel confirmed that while the structure has not yet been linked to any individual, federal agents are actively investigating. "No individuals were located at the scene. The FBI has since taken the investigatory lead, flying in resources to collect all evidence from the scene and deploying our cell phone analytics capabilities," he added.

ISRAEL SAYS KEY BORDER CROSSING INTO GAZA REOPENED FOR AID

Diary Times Desk : Israel's Kerem Shalom border crossing into Gaza reopened for aid on Monday, an Israeli military official said, a day after Israel closed it, accusing Hamas of violating an ongoing ceasefire.

Following a decision at the political level, aid flowed through Kerem Shalom "in full compliance with the signed agreement", the official said, adding that Gaza's Rafah crossing to Egypt "will remain closed until further notice".

Hamas has denied breaching the truce agreement and in turn accused Israel of violating the deal.



'WE'RE GOING TO BE FINE WITH CHINA, BUT GOT TO HAVE A FAIR DEAL,' SAYS TRUMP AS TRADE NEGOTIATIONS APPROACH

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Sunday said that the United States will "be fine" with China as both countries prepare to restart trade talks. His comments come at a sensitive time, with the current trade truce between Washington and Beijing set to expire soon.

'We have to have a fair deal with China,' says Trump

In an interview with Fox News on Sunday, Trump was asked about his earlier threat to raise tariffs on Chinese goods by 100%. He replied that such a high tariff was "not sustainable" though "it could stand."

Trump also said he shared a good personal relationship with Xi Jinping and expected the two sides to meet in South Korea later this month during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit. "I think we're going to be fine with China, but we have to have a fair deal. It's got to be fair," Trump said.



Talks in Malaysia amid tense trade relations

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed that American and Chinese officials will meet in Malaysia later this week to continue discussions. This follows a virtual meeting between Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng on Friday, which Chinese state media described as a "constructive exchange of views." The talks come after a series of tense exchanges between the two nations. A little over a week ago, Trump suggested he might cancel his first face-to-face meeting with Chinese President Jinping since returning to the White House. His anger stemmed from Beijing's decision to tighten control over rare-earth elements, which are materials essential for making fighter jets, smartphones, and electric cars. Following that, Trump announced a 100% import surtax on Chinese goods, which is scheduled to take effect on November 1.

This decision puts at risk the fragile trade truce that expires on November 10 unless both sides agree to extend it.

TWO DEAD AFTER CARGO PLANE SKIDS OFF HONG KONG RUNWAY INTO SEA

Diary Times Desk : Two Hong Kong airport security staff were killed when a cargo plane skidded off a runway, hit their patrol vehicle and ploughed into the sea.

Emirates flight EK9788 was arriving from Dubai at about 03:50 local time on Monday (19:50 GMT on Sunday) when it veered off the runway, crashed through perimeter fencing and collided with the vehicle, pushing it into the water.

The two people inside died. The Boeing 747 ended up partly submerged, but its four crew survived.

Officials are investigating the cause of the crash on the north runway. Two other runways remain operational. It is one of the deadliest aviation incidents in years at Hong Kong International Airport, which has a good safety record.

The investigation will focus on the unanswered questions over the path taken by the plane upon landing.

Airport officials have said they gave the correct instructions to the plane and that there were signs on the runway to guide aircraft.

TRUMP'S RESPONSE TO 'NO KINGS' MARCHES ONLY PROVED THE PROTESTERS' POINT

Diary Times Desk : A president steeped in constitutional lore might have been offended by claims he's acting as a king.

But Donald Trump and his entourage responded with mockery to weekend "No Kings" protests by millions of Americans — embracing the narrative in a way that explains his growing hubris and belief that he has unchecked power.

The president and Vice President JD Vance this weekend both posted AI memes to social media depicting Trump in a crown. The one Trump shared was a mocked-up vision of the president flying a fighter jet emblazoned with "KING TRUMP" appearing to dump raw sewage on protesters. In Vance's troll on Bluesky, a site popular with liberals, prominent Democrats knelt as supplicants in a royal court before Trump, the divine and absolute ruler.

It was a clever political trick. MAGA supporters can blast anyone who takes offense to the posts as lacking a sense of humor and being prim. The posts also trivialize protesters' gravely serious claims that America is witnessing a wannabe autocrat. But they also subtly advance the thesis that Trump is all-powerful and immune from dissent, an attractive proposition to voters who like a strongman.



DEADLY GAZA FLARE-UP TESTS ISRAEL-HAMAS CEASEFIRE



Diary Times Desk : One week ago, US President Donald Trump was given a hero's welcome in Israel after securing the Gaza ceasefire and exchange of Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners.

But the days since have shown just how precarious the ceasefire is, and Sunday brought its biggest test so far.

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched a series of deadly strikes across Gaza, after two soldiers were killed in the southern city of Rafah in an attack it blamed on Hamas. Hamas said it was not responsible because it had not had contact with fighters in the area since communications were cut off in March.

An Israeli security official announced the suspension of aid deliveries as a result of the attack.

It appears US pressure ensured the truce was not derailed and that Israel's crossings with Gaza reopened on Monday. Now it is clear mediators must stay closely involved to shore up the deal and settle key issues on the future of Gaza and Hamas.

PAKISTAN'S CEASEFIRE WITH TALIBAN DEPENDS ON HALTING ATTACKS FROM AFGHAN SOIL, SAYS DEFENCE MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : The ceasefire agreement between Islamabad and Kabul is linked to the ruling Taliban's ability to rein in militants attacking Pakistan from Afghanistan, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Reuters on Monday.

The South Asian neighbours agreed to a ceasefire in Doha at the weekend after days of border clashes that killed dozens, the worst such violence since the Taliban seized power in Kabul in 2021.

Ground fighting between the one-time allies and Pakistani airstrikes across their contested 2,600-km (1,600-mile) frontier were triggered after Islamabad demanded that Kabul control militants, saying they operated from havens in Afghanistan.

"Anything coming from Afghanistan will be (a) violation of this agreement," Asif said in his office at Pakistan's parliament in Islamabad. "Everything hinges on this one clause."

AFTER 'NO KINGS' PROTESTS, WHERE DOES DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION GO NEXT?

Diary Times Desk : This weekend's "No Kings" demonstrations drew an estimated crowd of millions across the US to protest President Donald Trump's policies and his willingness to push the boundaries of presidential authority.

It was a moment for likeminded Democrats, liberals and some anti-Trump Republicans to rally together at a time when the American left has little formal power in national politics.

By most accounts, the turnout at Saturday's events - in major US cities like Chicago, New York, Washington and Los Angeles, as well as hundreds of smaller towns - was higher than expected and surpassed the first "No Kings" rally in June.

Congressional Republicans had warned that the demonstrations would be "anti-American", and some conservative governors had put their law enforcement and National Guard on alert in case of violence.

The massive rallies turned out to be peaceful - a carnival, not carnage. In New York City, there were no protest-related arrests, and the gathering in Washington DC featured families and young children.

ZELENSKY READY TO JOIN TRUMP-PUTIN TALKS AFTER 'FRANK' WHITE HOUSE MEETING

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said he would be ready to join Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin at a proposed summit in Hungary if he were invited.

The US and Russian presidents announced after their phone call on Thursday that they planned to hold talks on the war in Ukraine in Budapest, possibly in the coming weeks. On Monday, Zelensky told reporters: "If it is an invitation in a format where we meet as three or, as it's called, shuttle diplomacy... then in one format or another, we will agree". Meanwhile, media reports suggest his White House meeting with Trump on Friday descended into a "shouting match" - with the US side urging Ukraine to accept Russia's terms to end the war. Zelensky was guarded during his first press briefing since the talks, but still his comments made clear that there were large areas of disagreement between the two sides.



US AND AUSTRALIA SIGN RARE EARTHS DEAL TO COUNTER CHINA'S DOMINANCE

Diary Times Desk : The US and Australia have signed a deal intended to boost supplies of rare earths and other critical minerals, as the Trump administration looks for ways to counter China's dominance of the market.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the deal would support a pipeline of \$8.5bn (£6.3bn) "ready-to-go" projects that would expand his country's mining and processing abilities.

It includes \$1bn to be invested by the two countries in projects in the US and Australia over the next six months, a framework text says.

The US and Australia have been working on these issues since Trump's first term, but Albanese said the latest agreement would take the partnership to the "next level".

China currently controls about 70% of rare earths mining and 90% of the processing of the materials, which are found in everything from defence equipment to computer chips and cars.

US companies rely heavily on the materials, making them vulnerable this year as China has taken steps to restrict access to supplies in response to new US tariffs and other tensions.

XI JINPING OUTLINES CHINA'S 5-YEAR PLAN AT CLOSED-DOOR COMMUNIST PARTY MEET

Diary Times Desk : Chinese leader Xi Jinping delivered a speech Monday on the opening day of a major meeting of the ruling Communist Party to approve a draft plan laying out its goals for the country over the next five years.

A short dispatch from the official Xinhua News Agency said Xi "expounded on the Party leadership's draft proposals" for the next five-year plan for national economic and social development, which will cover 2026-2030. It did not provide any details.

The latest plan comes at a time of growing challenges and uncertainty for China, including a persistently sluggish economy, foreign restrictions on its access to the latest technologies and high tariffs imposed on its exports to the United States.

A Xinhua editorial said that the plan should focus on "high-quality" development and technological innovation, while also ensuring national security is protected and the benefits of economic growth are spread fairly and more widely.



**US-CHINA TRADE
DISPUTE OVER A LITTLE-
KNOWN DUTCH
CHIPMAKER COULD
HALT CAR PRODUCTION
AND SEND PRICES
HIGHER**

Diary Times Desk :

Few car buyers have heard of Nexperia. But this Dutch company makes chips that are essential for making cars – and now, it's at the center of a trade dispute that could shutter global auto plants and send already-record-level car prices even higher.

The dispute is just one part of wider trade tensions between the United States and China. The Nexperia saga began in earnest this past December when the US Commerce Department put Nexperia's parent company, China-based Wingtech Technologies, on a list of companies facing trade restrictions.

Then, this October, China's Ministry of Commerce banned Nexperia China and its subcontractors from exporting specific finished components and sub-assemblies manufactured in China. The Dutch government took control of Nexperia following this move.

**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.

**THE INTERNET JUST HAD ANOTHER GLOBAL OUTAGE. WHY DOES
THIS KEEP HAPPENING?**

Diary Times Desk : Amazon Web Services (AWS), the cloud computing platform that powers much of the internet, went down for several hours Monday, making several major websites and apps inoperable.

From banking services to social networks to airline booking sites to online shopping, thousands of services were disrupted as millions of people worldwide – many of whom were on their way to work on the US East Coast – were unable to mobile-order coffee or access key apps.

The latest outage serves as a reminder of how fragile the internet's backbone can be, even if the disruption is brief, and how reliant the world has become on these online services.

Although AWS and its competitors are generally robust, the internet is a complex web of overlapping services that are only as reliable as their weakest code. The root cause of Monday's outage remains unknown, but a service that converts friendly web names into IP addresses was unable to communicate with thousands of companies' massive databases hosted by Amazon.

MARKETS ARE VOLATILE. HERE'S WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR MONEY

Diary Times Desk : It's been a whirlwind year for investors.

Stocks are hovering near record highs, but volatility is creeping back into markets as US-China trade tensions flare up. Gold and silver – safe havens during uncertain times – are soaring higher.

Investors are worried about trade wars, signs of an AI bubble and now credit market turmoil.

With all the uncertainty, it can feel overwhelming. However, long-term investors are best off keeping calm, tuning out the noise and sticking to a consistent plan that aligns with their financial goals, experts say.

"Rather than trying to time the next downturn, the smarter move is to stick to fundamentals," said Jared Gagne, a wealth manager at Claro Advisors.

"Good investing is boring," he said.

TRUMP'S TARIFFS ARE BREWING TROUBLE FOR COFFEE ROASTERS

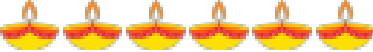
Diary Times Desk : The rising costs of coffee beans are keeping roasters and their customers on edge.

Retail coffee prices jumped nearly 21% in August compared to the same time last year, and the Trump administration's tariffs are partially to blame: In July, Brazil was slapped with one of the highest duties, at 50%, while Vietnam has 20% tariffs and Colombia has 10% tariffs.

America imports more than 99% of its coffee, according to the National Coffee Association. Most of it comes from Brazil – 30.7% of US coffee imports based on net weight, according to the UN Comtrade Database – Colombia (18.3%) and Vietnam (6.6%).

The average price of regular coffee at restaurants in August was 10 cents more than the same time last year, according to data from Toast, a restaurant management software provider. The increase brought the average price to \$3.52. Some relief may be on the way. In September, Rep. Don Bacon, a Republican from Nebraska, and Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna of California, introduced the bipartisan "No Coffee Tax Act" to exempt coffee products from tariffs.





HOW AMERICAN
CONSUMERS ARE
FEELING THE SQUEEZE, IN
4 CHARTS

Diary Times Desk :
The lingering effects of high inflation coupled with high interest rates have made it harder in recent years for many Americans to get ahead financially.

The hits just keep coming.

A raft of policy moves from the Trump administration, including particularly steep tariffs that could cause prices to rise, and the whipsaw approach being taken, have stoked uncertainty and driven down sentiment to some of the lowest levels on record.

That combination of higher prices, uncertainty and pessimism can be outright noxious as pullbacks in consumer and business spending can have cascading negative effects on the labor market and the broader economy.

The consumers who power the US economy with their spending have been resilient to date — but they're being increasingly spread thin.

Debt loads are climbing, as are defaults, and indicators of consumer strain are flashing red: For example, an increasing number of people are paying for their groceries in installments.

TOP SOCCER CLUBS ARE
USING AN AI-POWERED
APP TO SCOUT FUTURE
STARS

Diary Times Desk :
A London-based technology company is looking to "democratize" talent-identification and scouting in soccer using a mobile app. Free to download and available globally, the aiScout app allows aspiring soccer stars to enter virtual trials for professional clubs by uploading self-recorded footage of themselves completing a series of drills. It offers 75 exercises, designed to test a range of skills, with videos showing users how to complete them. Performances are automatically scored by artificial intelligence (AI) technology. The data can then be accessed by clubs, allowing their scouts to peruse scores for viable talent, honing their search with a variety.

THE NEXT ERA OF SOCIAL MEDIA IS COMING. AND IT'S MESSY SO FAR



Diary Times Desk : A baby running from a T-Rex with Lady Gaga playing in the background. Cats dancing on their hind legs dressed in streetwear. Bodycam footage of police arresting a pile of macaroni and cheese.

Big Tech wants to give social media an AI makeover — and so far, it's a bit of a mess.

ChatGPT's Sora app, where some of those scenes popped up last week, is just the latest entrant into the AI social media sphere. Meta's AI app has a TikTok-like video feed called Vibes. You can chat with AI personas on Instagram in your direct messages. And TikTok's AI Alive tool turns images into videos with just a simple command.

The moves are part of a high-stakes race that could shape the next era of the internet. Winning that race is critical for tech giants as they figure out how to make money from AI amid fears of a bubble.

'TRON: ARES' STEERS TO \$33 MILLION OPENING AT DOMESTIC BOX
OFFICE



Diary Times Desk : Disney's "Tron: Ares" revved up to gross about \$33.5 million at the domestic box office, notching the top spot for the weekend.

The third installment of the decades-old "Tron" franchise fell short of analysts' expectations of a more than \$40 million opening. The sci-fi adventure film reportedly had a budget of about \$180 million. "Let's give 'Tron' credit for being one of very few long-running franchises that can grab a No. 1 debut over 40 years after the first film," said Paul Dergarabedian, head of marketplace trends at Comscore. While it outperformed the tepid debut of the first "Tron," which in 1982 earned \$16.7 million, adjusted for inflation, "Tron: Ares" fell well short of the opening weekend success of "Tron: Legacy" (\$65 million, adjusted for inflation) in 2010. Paramount Pictures' "Roofman," the dramatic re-telling of Jeffrey Manchester's 2004 prison escape and subsequent hiding in a Toys "R" Us store, finished No. 2 at the box office, grossing an estimated \$8 million. "This is a solid opening for a character-driven comedy about a fugitive living a double life who falls for a divorced mom," said David A. Gross, who writes industry newsletter FranchiseRe, noting that character comedies open to around \$6.4 million domestically on average.

Third overall at the domestic box office was Warner Bros. Pictures' "One Battle After Another" (\$6.67 million), which has continued to hold on with a \$54 million gross during its three-week run. Warner Bros. Discovery is the parent company of CNN. The No. 4 movie this weekend was Universal Pictures' "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie" (\$3.35 million), followed by Sony Pictures' "Soul on Fire" (\$3 million). Dergarabedian called "Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie" an "unsung hero of the month" because, while it hasn't generated huge earnings, it's been a mainstay for audiences since it opened.

"It's a very rare movie, in as much as it's a G-rated film. Usually it's PG movies that attract the family audience," he said.



INITIATING MAJOR
REJIG, PUNJAB
CONGRESS TO APPOINT
NEW DISTRICT CHIEFS
SOON

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Congress is likely to declare its new district chiefs this week, initiating a major rejig in the state unit ahead of the crucial 2027 Assembly elections.

The 29 district chiefs have been elected through the Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan, an organisational rebuilding campaign. The new faces will replace those appointed in 2022.

Confirming that the list was expected any day, Warring said, "The district presidents were selected through a transparent process, and without any favouritism."

According to party sources, All-India Congress Committee (AICC)-appointed co-incharge for Punjab Ravinder Dalvi held discussions over it with party's national general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal on Saturday. The meeting came after final round of discussions with the state's top party leadership.

TEENAGE GIRL
'SEXUALLY ASSAULTED'
BY PANCHAYAT HEAD
IN SHIMLA

Diary Times Desk : A 13-year old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by a panchayat head here under the guise of a tantric ritual, police said on Monday.

According to the complaint, the accused, identified as Kishori Lal, lured the girl to his home on October 15 and 17 and sexually assaulted her.

The accused was booked for rape under Section 65 of BNS and sections of POCSO Act and arrested, police said.

They said the victim was on her way to school on September 21 when Kishori Lal accosted her and asked about a 'rudraksha mala', a gift from a friend, she was wearing. Kishori Lal touched the necklace and the girl felt a "shock," the complainant read.

NO FESTIVITY FOR PUNJAB FARMERS AMID KHARIF CROP SHOCKER

Diary Times Desk : This year's Diwali may not spell cheer for thousands of farmers across Punjab, which is already grappling with an agrarian crisis.

With crops on around 4 lakh acres already lost during the recent floods, the state witnessed incessant post-monsoon rain, significantly impacting non-basmati paddy yield. Global economic uncertainty has also pushed the prices of the premium basmati rice down, hitting the growers hard. Cotton is also selling below the minimum support price (MSP). Moreover, there is little hope of generating income from the next crop in the wake of a severe DAP shortage.

"The chances of economic recovery in the near future are weak. We have had to take loans to make both ends meet after the standing paddy crop on 27 acres (25 of those taken on lease) was destroyed. There is no celebration for us this year as most families are unable to recover from the trauma of economic losses. Seeing our plight, the Jamal Wala Baba from Sirsa sent sweets and some goodies for every household. It is a kind gesture, but it reinforces our economic plight," lamented Sikandar Singh, a farmer from Bhaini Ram Singh village in Fazilka.



FARM FIRE COUNT LOW IN PUNJAB,
COMING WEEKS A CHALLENGE TO
KEEP IT THAT WAY

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court intervention at the start of the paddy harvesting season ensured that the state government was on its toes throughout the period, thereby ensuring a stringent check on farm fires.

Result—the farm fires are on an all time low compared to previous years when the blame game was in full throttle when the fire count spiked. In the past 24 hours, Punjab witnessed 67 new farm fires, taking the total to 308, far less than the count of 1,444 and 1,393 in 2023 and 2024 respectively, on the same date.

The apex court pulled up the state government, asking why some errant farmers shouldn't be arrested for the practice, considered as a key contributor to the winter pollution in northern India, especially Delhi and areas around it.

Even the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) held meetings well in advance with state government officials and directed them to ensure that surplus paddy residue was fully managed.

LACKLUSTRE DIWALI FOR
SULTANPUR LODHI VILLAGERS

Diary Times Desk : For hundreds of Sultanpur Lodhi villagers, this Diwali will lack its lustre. Left homeless by the havoc wreaked by the overflowing Beas, the flood-hit people are still busy piecing together their lives.

The floods had marooned over 100 Sultanpur Lohi villages, including Rampur Gaura, Baupur, Sangra and Mohemmadabad in the low-lying Mand area, which was the worst-hit.

The raging river decimated nine of 12 houses in thinly-populated Rampur Gaura. Diwali will mark two months of the villagers' displacement.

The only silver lining is the decent help pouring in from do-gooders as seven families have been allocated sites for houses elsewhere.

Gurnishan Singh, whose pregnant wife had moved to safety as their house collapsed, sums up the mood.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
21-10-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

Scorpio

Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

Sagittarius

Today you should take all important decisions of your career thoughtfully. Employed people may have to face some problems due to the start of a new job in the workplace. Due to financial gain for business people, you can invest in a new business. Problems like leg pain and headache may bother you.

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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

DIWALI SANITATION
DRIVE LAUNCHED TO
BOOST CLEANLINESS IN
THANESAR

Diary Times Desk : To mark the Diwali festival, Thanesar Municipal Council officials, alongside local residents, organised a sanitation drive near Devi Lal Park in Kurukshetra on Sunday.

Former Minister Subhash Sudha, who participated in the drive, urged residents to keep their colonies and sectors as clean as their own homes.

Speaking at the event, Sudha said, "The way we clean every corner of our homes during Diwali, if we become equally conscious about cleanliness in our city, the day is not far when our city will be number one in cleanliness. The government and municipal council are making efforts to improve sanitation, but achieving this goal is difficult without public participation. We must all act as responsible citizens by ensuring cleanliness around us and encouraging others not to litter." He added filth harms public health and damages the city's image, emphasising the importance of cleanliness drives to address this issue. Sudha also encouraged residents to support swadeshi products.

OVER 2,800 PVT
SCHOOLS IN HARYANA
TO FACE PENALTY OVER
EWS ADMISSIONS

Diary Times Desk : Over 2,800 private schools in the state are likely to face penalty ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 1 lakh for not complying with the directions of the Directorate of Elementary Education regarding admissions of students belonging to economically weaker section under the Right to Education (RTE) during the academic session 2025-26.

The directorate has directed the district elementary education officers (DEEOs) to send information regarding the 1,680 recognised private schools that had not declared their seats in the state, with recommendation and proposal. Directions have also been issued regarding another 1,128 recognised private schools that were rejected by DEEOs on recognition and other grounds for allotment of seats.

DEVELOPMENT WORKS OF ROHTAK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION TO BE MONITORED
THROUGH ONLINE PORTAL

Diary Times Desk : In a step towards transparency and digital governance, the Rohtak Municipal Corporation has launched a new online portal titled "Suvidha Manch", designed to offer real-time data and updates on development projects across the municipal area.

"The portal will allow officials to view key details of any ongoing development project with just a single click. Information such as a project's start date, expected completion date, total cost, terms and conditions, and percentage of work completed will be readily available on the portal," said Dr Anand Kumar Sharma, Commissioner, MC, while speaking to 'The Tribune'. He claimed that Rohtak had become the first municipal corporation in the state to implement such a portal at present.

"The portal will not only prevent duplication of work but also enable monitoring and evaluation of performance of the contractor concerned. Initially, the access to the portal will be limited to MC officials.



HARYANA GOVERNOR, CM EXTEND
WARM DIWALI GREETINGS

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh has extended his warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Haryana and the nation on Diwali. In his message, Ghosh said, "On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to the people of Haryana and the nation as a whole. May this festival of lights illuminate everyone's life with courage, vigour, sagacity and enduring good health."

The Governor expressed hope that the festival would inspire all citizens to strengthen the bonds of unity, fraternity and goodwill and contribute meaningfully to the progress and prosperity of the state and the nation. He urged everyone to celebrate the festival safely and in an environmentally responsible manner.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini also extended his greetings and best wishes to all people of the state on Diwali, Govardhan Puja, Vishwakarma Day and Bhai Dooj. He also expressed sincere gratitude to the people of Haryana for their trust and cooperation as the present government completes one year of its third term.

DELHI'S FIRST FIR: A STOLEN KULFI,
HOOKAH

Diary Times Desk : Delhi Police's earliest First Information Reports (FIRs) offer a rare window into life and crime in 19th-century Delhi. The very first FIR, lodged on October 18, 1861, at the Sabzi Mandi Police Station, recorded the theft of three large and three small cooking vessels, a bowl, a hookah, a kulfi and some women's clothes from the home of a resident named Maaeuddin.

The total value of the stolen goods was 45 annas — roughly Rs 2.81 at the time.

Written in the Shikasta Urdu script, the original document now hangs framed in the Delhi Police Museum, preserved as an artefact of the city's past.

Other early FIRs reveal equally curious cases — the theft of a pair of pyjamas worth five annas in 1897, or 11 oranges stolen in 1891. One report recorded the uprooting of a keekar tree valued at Rs 1 from a public thoroughfare; another documented the theft of goats in Mehrauli.

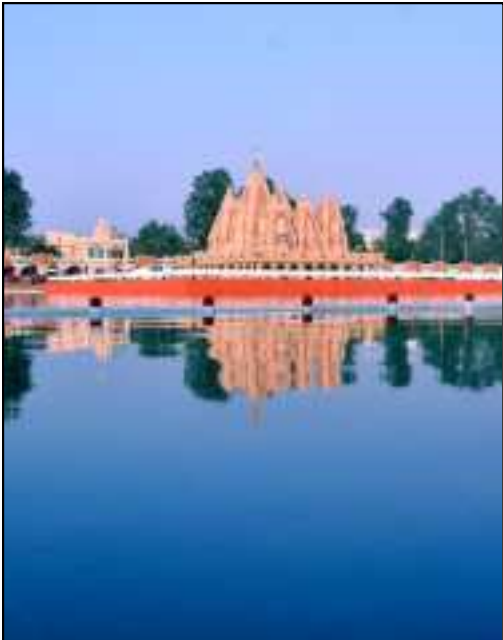
LIGHT, SOUND SHOW AT BRAHMA SAROVAR PUT ON HOLD
AGAIN

Diary Times Desk : The ambitious project to get a light and sound show at Brahma Sarovar seems to have been put on the back burner.

In 2023, to enhance the evening attraction, the then Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced a light and sound show for the Brahma Sarovar and directed the Kurukshetra Development Board to get the show introduced before the next Mahotsav (IGM-24). However, the project is yet to see the light of the day, and the government and the KDB are set to celebrate the IGM-25 in November, with no plans to introduce the show anytime soon.

This year, a 21-day IGM-25 will be celebrated from November 15 to December 5, on the banks of the Brahma Sarovar in Kurukshetra. The Saras and Crafts Fairs will be organised for 21 days, while the main events will be organised for eight days from November 24 to December 1.

The Brahma Sarovar is one of the major tourist locations, but it lacks evening attractions, due to which a majority of the tourists leave Kurukshetra by the evening.





US-made Tomahawk is a tried and tested missile – but it's out of Ukraine's reach for now

The Tomahawk is the workhorse of the United States' missile arsenal. It's been deployed in strikes in Syria and Libya and was used extensively against former dictator Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, in both the 1990s and in 2003.

About 30 of the cruise missiles were used as part of the US strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities in June.

While not new, the Tomahawk remains effective and relatively cheap, at \$2 million per missile. Depending on the variant, it can strike targets at a range of between 1,600 and 2,500 kilometers (1,000 to 1,600 miles).

That is not much greater than some of Ukraine's longer-range drones, but the Tomahawk would pack a far higher explosive punch.

It has sophisticated guidance technologies and travels at high subsonic (about 550 mph) speeds.

It also flies low, literally hugging the contours of land, making it harder to detect and intercept.

For all these reasons, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has lobbied the Trump administration for the delivery of Tomahawks that could enable Ukraine to strike targets deep inside Russia. For now, at least, he's not going to get them. Trump made clear last week that the US has few to spare, saying: "We need Tomahawks for the United States of America too. We have a lot of them but we need them."

As we have seen in this war of attrition – with the F-16 fighter jets, Abrams tanks and even Patriot missile batteries supplied to Ukraine – no single system is a game-changer. Hundreds of Tomahawks would be needed to cripple Russia's refineries and airbases.

Even so, a few dozen could enable the Ukrainian military to inflict substantial damage on key Russian infrastructure far from its borders – including the Shahed drone factory in Tatarstan and the Engels-2 Air Base in Saratov oblast, according to Washington-based think tank the Institute for the Study of War.



"It's very difficult just to operate with only with Ukrainian drones. We need long-range Tomahawks," Zelensky said in an interview with US network NBC on Sunday.

He has also said that Tomahawks would "strengthen Ukraine and force the Russians to sober up a little (and) sit down at the negotiating table."

The Kremlin was so perturbed by the prospect of Kyiv procuring Tomahawks that it issued dire warnings about an escalation of the war, given that the missiles can carry nuclear warheads. Russia would perceive their supply to Ukraine as a "hostile move" that would threaten global security, according to the head of the Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), Sergey Naryshkin.



Tim Lister

While Tomahawks would help Kyiv's long-range attacks inside Russia, Ukraine needs above all else more – and more capable – air defenses, as Russia ratchets up mass attacks with a combination of missiles and drones.



Kyung Lah

In another incident, a scammer pretended to be a Wells Fargo employee – fooling a woman in her late 70s into depositing about \$130,000 into a crypto ATM over several weeks. She passed away months later, her niece told CNN.

'Don't Try To Escape'

INSIDE THE SHADOWY WORLD OF CRYPTO

The email looked like a surprise charge of nearly \$500 from Best Buy, along with a customer service line to help with any questions.

The man who answered the line quickly acknowledged the charge was a mistake and promised a refund.

But as he worked to resolve the problem, he announced in a shocked voice, his company accidentally refunded thousands of extra dollars. The only fix, he said, was for the caller to urgently return the money through a crypto ATM – a machine that converts cash into cryptocurrency.



Police records vividly illustrate the range of cover-stories scammers use to trick victims, who on average lost about \$16,000 in cases CNN reviewed – though some have been conned out of much more.

Welcome to the shadowy world of crypto ATM scams.

These hoaxes, in which unwitting victims are tricked into sending con artists their savings through crypto ATMs, have risen exponentially in recent years. The FBI received nearly 11,000 crypto ATM scam complaints last year, totaling about a quarter billion dollars in losses – an amount on track to potentially double this year.

How are so many Americans falling for these hoaxes and handing over hard-earned money?

To answer that question, CNN reviewed more than 700 police reports and consumer complaints compiled since last year, interviewed dozens of

victims and detectives who have investigated the cases – and even called scammers directly.

The reporting revealed how scammers pose as trusted experts, authorities or romantic partners, and then pummel victims with layers of lies that overwhelm their emotions, impede their judgement and push them to act in ways that appear irrational in hindsight.

The scammers use crypto ATMs – tens of thousands of which are in gas stations, smoke shops and other stores across the country – as a convenient tool. After the ATMs turn cash into cryptocurrency, scammers can rapidly transfer the loot to anonymous digital wallets all over the world – often in places where it's nearly impossible for police in the US to recover.

"These things are almost designed to be just perfect instruments for... scams," Tim Schewering of the Spokane, Washington, police department said of crypto ATMs. "You can have someone's life savings wiped out very quickly."

A CNN investigation revealed how the companies profit by often marking up the price of cryptocurrency on transactions, including the illicit ones, and often fail to refund money to scam victims.

INFA

Russian Forces

AIDED BY HEAVY AERIAL BOMBARDMENTS, EDGE FORWARD IN UKRAINE

Russian forces are still edging forward along several parts of the long front line in Ukraine – despite yet another call from US President Donald Trump for a combat freeze along existing lines.

Both sides "should stop where they are," Trump said on social media Friday, after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington DC.

But the Russians seem intent on locking in gains before the onset of winter. On Friday, they used a record 268 guided aerial bombs, according to the Ukrainian military, compared to an average of 170 to 180 per day in recent weeks. These bombs, which carry a payload of up to 1,500 kilograms (3,307 pounds), largely target Ukrainian forces and infrastructure close to the front lines.

The Russians have also continued nightly barrages of drones and missiles against targets across Ukraine, especially against energy infrastructure. In September, an average of more than 180 drones were launched every night, more than twice the number at the beginning of the year.

In recent days, the Ukrainians have acknowledged that about 20% to 30% of those drones are not being intercepted.

In the last week, Russia has used more than 3,270 attack drones, 1,370 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 50 missiles of various types against Ukraine, Zelensky said Sunday.

To some analysts, the Kremlin has no incentive to compromise as its forces improve their battlefield performance.

"Moscow has developed fresh ways of using drones to find and kill Ukrainian soldiers and to destroy Ukrainian assets, turning what was once an area of weakness into an area of strength," writes long-time Russia analyst Dara Massicot in Foreign Affairs.

"It has built better missiles and created more rugged and capable armored systems. It is giving junior commanders more freedom to plan," Massicot adds.

One town where Ukrainians are under growing pressure is Kupiansk, in the northern region of Kharkiv. Russian troops have advanced to the north and east of the town, which has been under siege for more than a year.

A well-known Russian blogger, War Gonzo, said Saturday on Telegram that there was also fighting in the center of Kupiansk. About 80 Russian troops had infiltrated the town, the Ukrainian

military acknowledged on Thursday, and its defenders were "doing everything possible to clear Kupiansk of Russian invaders and prevent the accumulation of enemy infantry in the city."

One Ukrainian military blogger – Bohdan Miroshnikov – said this week that the Russian tactic "may lead to control (if reinforcements can arrive and consolidate their positions)."

He added that while the situation was very complicated, "full occupation of the city is still a long way off."

Also in Kharkiv region, closer to the international border, the Russians have claimed advances near the town of Vovchansk, including the capture of a nearby village.



Svitlana Vlasova

Russia has gained about 120 square miles of territory in the past four weeks, about half of what it seized in the previous four weeks, according to the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University.



A GUIDE TO TIFFANY & CO. — AN AMERICAN INSTITUTION

Diary Times Desk : Tiffany & Co. — the early history

The story of Tiffany & Co., the world's oldest major jewellery brand, begins in 1837 at 259 Broadway, New York. Founded by school friends Charles Lewis Tiffany and John Barnett Young, Tiffany and Young, as the company was then known, set out selling small fancy goods. Charles Tiffany would marry Young's sister, Harriet, and in 1853 he bought out his partners and renamed the company Tiffany & Co.

Beyond jewellery, Charles Tiffany responded to the growing desire for luxury goods by selling bouquet holders, purses, Guerlain soaps and fine stationery, some imported from Paris. By 1845 he was advertising 'French Jewellery', including items in gold, as well as a wide selection of imitation jewellery aimed at reaching a wider audience.

A Paris branch opened in 1850, and a year later the firm started a long relationship with Patek Philippe of Geneva. When Antoni Patek visited Tiffany's in 1855, he left with an order for 129 watches.

In 1878 one of the most famous sales of royal jewellery took place, when the jewels of Isabella II, Queen of Spain, came to market. Tiffany & Co. was one of the main buyers. It may well be that some or all of the emeralds in the magnificent necklace shown above originated from that historic sale.

In the same year, the company acquired the 128.54 carat Tiffany Yellow Diamond for \$18,000. Also in 1878, at the Exposition Universelle in Paris, Tiffany & Co. became the first American jeweller to be awarded the Grand Prix for its display of Japanese-influenced silver.

The firm continued to be a major buyer of royal jewels and spent \$487,459 in May 1887 when the French Crown Jewels were sold in Paris. These spectacular historic treasures were eagerly acquired by the new American tycoons who had made fortunes building empires of industry and finance in the last quarter of the 19th century.

America's coming of age

As America prospered during the mid-19th century, Tiffany & Co. expanded, opening a larger shop on Union Square in 1870. As national pride grew in the quality of American workmanship, so did demand for US-sourced gems and pearls.



LONDON 20TH/21ST CENTURY FRIEZE WEEK SALES ACHIEVE A RUNNING TOTAL OF £141.8M / \$189.7M / €162.75M

Diary Times Desk : As the art world turned its gaze to London for Frieze Week 2025, Christie's 20th/21st Century: London Evening Sale realised £106,925,400 / \$142,852,334 / €122,750,359. This result is up 30 per cent on the total achieved last year. With a sell-through rate of 90 per cent by value and 92 per cent by lot, the result proves the auction house's enduring role in the capital's art market.

Presided over by auctioneers Adrien Meyer and Yü-Ge Wang, bids came in from the floor, telephones and on Christie's LIVE for the curated selection of 60 lots — 67 per cent of which were fresh to auction. More than 56 per cent of bidders were from Europe, the Middle East and Africa, while 28 per cent came from the Americas, and 16 per cent from Asia and the Pacific.

The night's result is Christie's highest London Frieze Week evening sale total in seven years, signalling an increased demand for exceptional quality, impressive provenance and works fresh to the market.

Property from the Ole Faarup Collection

The top price of the night went to Peter Doig's *Ski Jacket* (1994), which made £14,270,000, against a low estimate of £6,000,000. Its sale, after nearly 13 minutes of intense bidding, was greeted with a round of applause.

Showing a mountain landscape dotted with conifers and chalets, the work was acquired by Danish collector Ole Faarup from Gavin Brown's Enterprise gallery in New York in the year it was made — the same as Doig's Turner Prize nomination. Its sister painting, also titled *Ski Jacket*, was included in the prize exhibition and purchased by Tate the following year.

Eight more lots were offered from Faarup's collection. The Danish furniture retailer, who passed away in February this year, spent five decades acquiring art, at one point in the 1990s focusing his attention on London's emerging artists — following advice he had once received from Andy Warhol to 'buy things that are cutting-edge'. In total, the collection raised £27,318,500, benefitting the Ole Faarup Art Foundation.

Another of his works by Doig, *Country Rock* (1998–99), made £9,210,000, the second-highest price of the night. A panorama three metres wide, it depicts the entrance to a Toronto tunnel framed by a rainbow. It was purchased by Faarup from Contemporary Fine Arts in Berlin in 1999, and has been exhibited extensively.





OLYMPIACOS COACH JOSE LUIS MENDILIBAR’S GRIM RECORD VS
BARCELONA AHEAD OF UCL TIE



Diary Times Desk : On Tuesday night, FC Barcelona take on Olympiacos in their match of the 2025/26 UEFA Champions League group phase at Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys.

The Blaugrana have a 50-50 record in the competition so far, having first beaten Newcastle United 2-1 before losing to PSG by the same scoreline.

As such, Hansi Flick & co. will be intent on returning to winning ways in the Champions League and aiming to collect all three points against the Greek giants, who won the UEFA Europa Conference League last season.

And, Olympiacos head coach Jose Luis Mendilibar’s record against Barcelona bodes well for the Catalan club. Mendilibar has struggled against Barcelona

Indeed, Mendilibar has not had much joy whenever he has faced Barcelona as manager, having managed just the one victory in 27 meetings.

HANSI FLICK TRIES A NEW BARCELONA
ATTACKING TRIDENT IN TRAINING
BEFORE OLYMPIACOS CLASH

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona’s win over Girona at the weekend required Hansi Flick to bring an unconventional substitute in Ronald Araujo to score the winner as the striker – a measure that worked out but shows how grave a situation the club is facing in terms of injuries.

There was hope that Ferran Torres would be available for the clash midweek against Olympiacos, but with both him and Raphinha still not training with the group, Flick has another big game to pass with a thin forward line.

Needless to say, the manager is experimenting with various formations to deploy on the night, and SPORT brings to light some of the interesting options.

Entry of the Swede

As relayed by the outlet in a recent report, the manager tested out a combination of Roony Bardghji, Marcus Rashford, and Lamine Yamal in training.

The development is not surprising considering how the Swedish star impressed coming off the bench in the last game.

FLICK TALKS RASHFORD, RAPHINHA,
BARDGHJI, FERRAN, BERNAL AHEAD OF
BARCELONA VS OLYMPIACOS

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona are back in action in the UEFA Champions League this week as they lock horns with Olympiacos on Matchday 3 of the league phase.

Having suffered a defeat to PSG in the previous matchday, the Blaugrana will be gunning to bounce back strongly and secure all three points at Montjuic on Tuesday night.

However, the performances of the team since that PSG game have been far from inspiring – losing to Sevilla and just about scraping a win over Girona.

Hansi Flick, thus, has plenty to think about heading into tomorrow’s contest, especially with El Clasico looming at the weekend.

Speaking to the media ahead of tomorrow’s game in Montjuic, the Barcelona manager acknowledged the attacking threat that Olympiacos possess.

“They have a good attack, the statistics say they are one of the best teams in attack. You only have to look at the match against Arsenal, where they had a lot of chances,” said Flick.

FERMIN LOPEZ TALKS FLICK, LAMINE, RAPHINHA, ROLE IN TEAM, FITNESS
AHEAD OF BARCELONA VS OLYMPIACOS

Diary Times Desk : Following their 2-1 win over Girona in La Liga, FC Barcelona will shift their attention to the UEFA Champions League as they take on Olympiacos on Tuesday night.

Having lost their previous European encounter against PSG, the Blaugrana will be eager to get back to winning ways and collect all three points against the Greek giants at Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys tomorrow.

On the eve of the match, Fermin Lopez, who made his return from injury in the win over Girona, appeared at the press conference along with manager Hansi Flick and addressed several topics.

Kicking things off, the Spanish attacking midfielder opened up on what kind of match Barça are expecting against Olympiacos, saying:

“I think it will be a very difficult match; obviously, it’s the Champions League, and we’re coming off a loss to PSG. We have to play well, regain our confidence, and win.”



LA LIGA LEGEND HAILS
BARCELONA STAR AS THE
‘BEST MIDFIELDER’, WEIGHS IN
ON LAMINE-MESSI
COMPARISONS

Diary Times Desk : Speaking in an interview with Winwin (h/t AS), Real Oviedo captain and La Liga legend Santi Cazorla revealed the details of a conversation he had with Barcelona midfielder Pedri.

One of the most iconic modern-day midfielders from Spain, Cazorla was seen holding a warm conversation with Pedri last month when his Real Oviedo side hosted Barcelona in La Liga.

Now, the former Arsenal and Villarreal midfielder has divulged the details of the chat between himself and the Barcelona maestro.

“I spoke with Pedri about football and told him he was the best midfielder at the moment and that he had to keep making us enjoy for a long time. He’s a phenomenal person, too,” stated Cazorla.

BARCELONA BELIEVE ATLETICO
MADRID COULD DEMAND
€200 MILLION FOR ACE
GOALSCORER – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : It is no secret that Barcelona are gearing up for a summer of change in 2026 and one of the club’s main priorities will be to sign a new forward who can replace Robert Lewandowski.

The ageing Polish striker has shown signs of decline this season and could be playing his final season for the club, prompting Barcelona to look for options in the market.

One of Joan Laporta’s favourite picks is none other than Julian Alvarez, who has become a household name in La Liga after joining Atletico Madrid.

In just over a year, the Argentine international has racked up 36 goals and 11 assists for Atletico Madrid, with many calling him the next big star in Argentine football.

Atletico Madrid would be willing to negotiate with Barcelona for the longest time, it was thought that Atletico Madrid would not even bother opening up to negotiations for Alvarez, as he is too important to the team.

However, according to Radioestadio Noche, it appears Atletico Madrid could be willing to negotiate with Barcelona surrounding the potential sale of Alvarez.

But Barcelona believe the Madrid outfit could end up slapping an asking price of €200 million for the Argentine international.