

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANTI-CORRUPTION WATCHDOG WANTS 7 BMW LUXURY CARS. THEY COST RS 70 LAKH EACH

Diary Times Desk :

The Lokpal, the country's anti-corruption ombudsman, wants to ride around in uber-luxurious BMW sedans and has floated a tender to buy seven of them, one for each member, including the Chairperson, former Supreme Court Justice Ajay Manikrao Khanwilkar. Each car costs Rs 70 lakh. Media reports also said car-maker BMW will be told to provide seven days of 'training' to Lokpal drivers and staff, which will include teaching them about the cars' electronic systems and operations.

A notification dated October 16 states, "The Lokpal of India invites open tenders from reputed Agencies for supply of seven BMW 3 Series Li Cars to the Lokpal of India." According to the tender notice, the offers will remain valid for 90 days from date of opening.

4 DEAD, 10 HURT IN MIDNIGHT FIRE ON DIWALI AT NAVI MUMBAI BUILDING

Diary Times Desk :

Four persons were killed and 10 others suffered injuries after a fire broke out in a multi-storey residential building in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township shortly after midnight on Tuesday, police said. Prima facie, the blaze started at around 12.30 am in a flat on the 10th floor of the Raheja Residency, MGM Complex, at Sector 14 in Vashi area, and spread to the 11th and 12th floors, an official said.

Two women, a man and a 6-year-old girl were killed, while 10 others were injured, he said. The injured persons were rushed to two hospitals in Vashi. After being alerted, 40 fire brigade personnel along with 8 fire tenders and police rushed to the spot and the blaze was put out by 4 am, the official said. The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained, the official said.



DELHI'S AIR QUALITY

'SUPREME COURT CHOSE RIGHT TO BURN CRACKERS OVER RIGHT TO LIVE': AMITABH KANT



environmental concerns arising".

While the court permitted bursting of crackers between 6 am-7am and 8 pm-10 pm on two days, several areas in Delhi-NCR saw crackers going off past midnight.

"Delhi's air quality lies in shambles; 36/38 monitoring stations have hit the 'red zone'; AQI is above 400 in key areas. The Hon. Supreme Court in its wisdom has prioritised the right to burn crackers over the right to live and breathe. Delhi remains among the world's most polluted capital. If Los Angeles, Beijing, and London can do it, why can't Delhi? Only ruthless and sustained execution can save Delhi from this health and environmental catastrophe," Kant said in a post on X, sharing a news report about the air emergency in Delhi.

"A unified action plan is vital - to end crop and biomass burning, shut or modernise thermal power plants and brick kilns with cleaner tech, shift all transport to electric by 2030, enforce strict construction dust control, ensure full waste segregation and processing, and redesign Delhi around green, walkable, transit-focused living. Only such decisive & relentless execution can restore the city's blue skies and breathable air," he added.

This morning, visuals from across the national capital captured a thick layer of smog as many on social media pointed out how crackers had contributed to the situation. Others, however, said stubble burning in neighbouring states was the real culprit and questioned why Diwali crackers were being singled out as the cause of pollution.

MODI PHONE CALL, RUSSIAN OIL, INDIA-PAKISTAN: TRUMP REITERATES CLAIMS OVER WEEKEND

Diary Times Desk : Claiming for the third time in less than a week that India will stop buying Russian oil, US President Donald Trump over the weekend threatened that New Delhi would have to keep paying "massive tariffs" if it does not fall in line.

Trump over the weekend also repeated his claim that he precipitated the end to the India-Pakistan military conflict in May, saying he used the threat of a 200% levy on either side to get them to stop the fighting.

Asked about the Indian government's denial of knowledge about a phone call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and himself on Thursday – when the president had claimed that Modi assured him India would stop buying Russian oil – Trump told reporters en route to Washington from Florida: "Well, then they're just going to keep paying a lot of tariffs. If they said that, but I don't believe they said that."

"No, I spoke with Prime Minister Modi of India, and he said he's not gonna be doing the Russian oil thing, so that's it," he said early on Monday (October 20) Indian time. If India stops buying Russian crude it will be "much easier" to end the Ukraine war, Trump went on to say, adding that New Delhi "assured me [that] within a short period of time they will not be buying oil from Russia. And they'll go back to Russia after the war is over." Ostensibly with a view to ending the Ukraine war by depriving Moscow of funds, Washington has imposed a punitive 25% tariff on India – on top of an identical 'reciprocal'.



JAMMU AND KASHMIR BYPOLLS: 'AGA VS AGA' IN BUDGAM, WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT IN NAGROTA



Diary Times Desk :

The nomination process for the by-elections to the Budgam (constituency 27) and Nagrota (constituency 77) Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir concluded on Monday. The polls, scheduled for 11 November with counting on 14 November, were a result of the resignation of Omar Abdullah from Budgam and the death of BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana in Nagrota.

"Aga vs Aga" battle.

The contests feature intense intra-family dynamics in Budgam and a high-profile women's showdown in Nagrota both seen as tests of NC's regional grip and BJP's organisational strength. NC is fielding veteran Aga Syed Mehmood while the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has again nominated Aga Muntazir nephew of the NC candidate turning the contest into a high-stakes Nagrota: Women lead the charge

In Nagrota, a BJP stronghold, the aftermath of Devender Singh Rana's death has set the stage for a notable women-centric contest. The NC has fielded DDC member Shameema Firdous, while BJP is banking on the late MLA's daughter Devyani Rana.

In the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, Omar defeated Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (JKPDP) candidate Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi in Budgam by 18,485 votes. Nagrota will witness a bypoll after its sitting Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Devender Singh.

USE OF TERM 'PHYSICAL RELATIONS' WITHOUT EVIDENCE NOT SUFFICIENT TO ESTABLISH RAPE: DELHI HC



Diary Times Desk : Mere use of the term "physical relations" without supporting evidence is insufficient to establish rape or aggravated penetrative sexual assault, the Delhi High Court has held.

The court's observation came while allowing a man's appeal challenging his conviction and 10 years imprisonment in a rape case and acquitting him of the charges.

"In the peculiar facts and circumstances of this case, the use of the term 'physical relations', unaccompanied by any supporting evidence, would not be sufficient to hold that the prosecution has been able to prove the offence beyond reasonable doubt.

"The appellant's conviction under Section 376 IPC and Section 6 of the POCSO Act is unsustainable," Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri said in a judgment passed on October 17.

The court, which termed it an unfortunate case, said it was bound to decide the matter on its own merits.

It said the child victim and her parents repeatedly stated that "physical relations" were established however, there was no clarity as to what was meant by this expression.

"No further description of the alleged act has been given. Unfortunately, no questions have been put to the victim by the prosecution or trial court to gain some clarity as to whether the essential ingredients of the offence the appellant was charged with, have been made out or not," it said.

The court said the expression "physical relations" was not used or defined either under the IPC or POCSO Act.

RASHTRIYA JANATA DAL (RJD)

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS: AIMIM CANDIDATE

ARRESTED FROM JEHANABAD AFTER FILING NOMINATION



Diary Times Desk : Hours after the arrest of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate in Bihar's Rohtas, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimen (AIMIM) nominee, Mohammad Kalamuddin, was taken into custody from Jehanabad on Tuesday. An arrest warrant was pending against Kalamuddin in a case of attempted murder.

Rahul Kumar, station house officer (SHO) of Kako police station in Jehanabad district, confirmed Kalamuddin's arrest.

Supporters of AIMIM nominee created a scene outside Jehanabad sadar police station where Kalamuddin was detained, alleging a conspiracy behind his arrest. The situation was brought under control after intervention of senior police officers.

Kalamuddin was referred to Patna Medical College and Hospital (PMCH) after he complained of uneasiness and chest pain.

Kalamuddin, a resident of Zafarganj in Jehanabad town, had been fielded as AIMIM candidate from the Jehanabad seat. He was arrested soon after he filed his nomination papers.

Mohammad Gyasuddin, a resident of Zafarganj, said this is the first arrest of a candidate in Jehanabad district. On Monday, RJD candidate from Sasaram, Mukesh Shah was arrested moments after submitting his nomination papers to the Sasaram returning officer in Rohtas district. He is stated to be a native of Balapur village under Kargahar police station limits in Rohtas district. Later, he was handed over to a Jharkhand police team, which took him to Garhwa on police remand after obtaining permission.

"GAJAB AADMI HAI": TEJASHWI YADAV'S SWIPE AT NITISH KUMAR OVER VIRAL VIDEO

Diary Times Desk : With two weeks left for Bihar to vote in the Assembly election, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav has taken a fresh swipe at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's health after a video of him garlanding a woman at a public meeting started circulating on social media.

The video shows the 74-year-old JDU chief greeting a woman on stage during an NDA meeting. The woman stands with her hands folded as Kumar tries to put a garland around her neck. JDU's Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Jha stops the Chief Minister and appears to be asking him to hand over the garland to the woman.

Kumar lowers his hand, then suddenly puts the garland around the woman's neck. As the crowd cheers, the Chief Minister says on the microphone, "Ee gajab aadmi hai bhai (He is quite a man)", and appears to be rebuking Jha for trying to hold his hand.

Tejashwi Yadav posted the viral video and borrowed the Chief Minister's words for the caption, "Ee gajab aadmi hai bhai. If the Chief Minister is healthy, why is he behaving like this after reading a written speech?"

Once Nitish Kumar's Deputy in the Mahagathbandhan government, Tejashwi Yadav has been flagging his health condition in the run-up to the upcoming Bihar polls.

Earlier, he had shared a video of Nitish Kumar attending a virtual meeting from his home. In the video, Kumar appears to be greeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly.

"Can this mental state of the Chief Minister be blamed on his close aides who may be spiking his food at the instance of alliance partner BJP?", Tejashwi Yadav asked.

TRUMP'S "LIGHT'S VICTORY OVER DARKNESS" DIWALI MESSAGE FOR AMERICANS

OLA EMPLOYEE SUICIDE: KARNATAKA HIGH COURT ORDERS POLICE NOT TO HARASS CEO BHAVISH AGGARWAL DURING PROBE



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," the US president said.

"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 added.

Several other prominent people from the US, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Indian-American chief Kash Patel, also extended greetings for the auspicious festival.

"Happy Diwali—celebrating the Festival of Lights around the world, as good triumphs over evil," Patel, who became the first Indian-American to lead the FBI earlier this year, wrote in a post on X.

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Monday extended his wishes on Diwali, the festival of lights, and said it is a time to bring families and friends together to celebrate.

"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

Diary Times Desk : The Karnataka High Court recently ordered the Bengaluru police not to harass the founder of electric vehicle manufacturer OLA Electric, Bhavish Aggarwal, and a senior official at the company, during an ongoing investigation into the suicide of a 38-year-old OLA engineer [Subrat Kumar Dash and ors v. State of Karnataka and anr].

The deceased employee, K Aravind, had reportedly accused senior officials at OLA of mental harassment and financial exploitation in a suicide note.

The company's founder, Aggarwal, and the Head of Homologation Engineering at OLA Electric, Subrat Kumar Das, have now approached the High Court, seeking to quash the first information report (FIR) registered in the matter.

DREAMS OF A MAOIST INDIA

POTHOLES, POLITICS AND PUBLIC'S PATIENCE

Diary Times Desk : On 6 April 2010, a company of India's central paramilitary soldiers came under attack from Maoist guerrillas in the central-eastern state of Chhattisgarh. The Maoists, who had turned this region into their stronghold, had laid a trap. With little training and scant knowledge of the Amazon-like jungle, the Indian soldiers found themselves ambushed. They fought back, but they could not escape the ambush. Seventy-five soldiers and a state policeman accompanying them were killed. Never before had the Indian forces suffered so many casualties in a single incident, not even in Kashmir, where, for more than 20 years, they had been fighting a protracted battle against Islamist extremists.

As the body bags of the soldiers reached their native places in different parts of India, a deep sense of anger generated among people who till recently had only a vague idea about who these Maoists were, and even less about the hinterland that the Maoists had turned into a guerrilla zone. Since the mid-2000s, the Maoists had grown in strength, launching audacious attacks against government forces and looting police armouries and declaring certain areas as 'liberated zones'. Their operations ran in a contiguous arc of land, from Nepal's border in the east to the Deccan Plateau in the south – an area the Maoists called Dandakaranya or DK, using the name in its historical sense. This is a region where India's indigenous people, the Adivasis, lived; it also holds valuable minerals and other natural resources in abundance.

'LARGER SCHEME': HIGH COURT CALLS FOR WIDER PROBE INTO SABARIMALA GOLD THEFT



Diary Times Desk : The Kerala High Court said that gold theft from the Sabarimala temple cannot be brushed aside as an isolated act, while questioning the possibility of a well-orchestrated conspiracy.

The court document accessed by NDTV summarises the intention that the judiciary wants an independent court-monitored probe to supervise and monitor the Sabarimala gold theft investigation, which is free from the technical limits of the earlier Special Commissioner's report proceedings.

The Bench of Justices Raja Vijayaraghavan V and KV Jayakumar noted that the chain of events since 2019 strongly suggests a wider and well-orchestrated conspiracy involving officials of the Travancore Devaswom Board at every level.

Diary Times Desk : This one is for the city I love. This one is for the city I live in as well. Bengaluru.

After every bout of heavy rain, Bengaluru gets battered. Both physically and metaphorically. Many arterial roads get flooded. Traffic jams are the norm. Tarred roads develop potholes with water accumulation. That exposes the shoddy work in building the roads. Heavy rain is the best auditor of good or bad road works. Dirty linen gets washed as well. Every political party gets blamed. Band-aid solutions to patch up potholes temporarily get ripped off, creating newer and bigger potholes.

Traffic flow on the battered roads slows down further, and commute time prolongs excruciatingly. Tempers rise, road rage becomes the norm, and motorists break every breakable rule to rush home. People will drive on footpaths and service roads, and on the wrong side of traffic flow.

GOVT WILL STRENGTHEN POLICE, TAKE CARE OF THEIR FAMILIES: ANDHRA CM

Diary Times Desk : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday said that the government will strengthen the police and take care of their families.

Addressing the Police Commemoration Day at the Sixth Battalion in Mangalagiri, the chief minister said the government will provide security for the police and ensure respect for them.

According to the CM, Rs 33 crore was spent on healthcare for police in the past 16 months and Rs 23 crore was offered as insurance to 171 deceased policemen.

Likewise, the TDP supremo promised that the government would take action for timely promotions and added that the process of recruiting 6,100 constables was completed.

"Will strengthen the police. This government will take the responsibility of increasing the respect of police, providing them with security and taking care of their families," he said.

Naidu said security and peace are key for a healthy, wealthy and happy Andhra Pradesh.

He called on them to extensively use tech features such as CCTV cameras, drones, phone signals, Google takeouts and others. Further, Naidu called social media the biggest challenge. Several people are getting hurt by irresponsible social media posts, he added.

According to the CM, investments will not come if there is friction in society. Investors desire protection for their investments, he said.



BIOCON FOUNDER VISITS
DK SHIVAKUMAR AMID
FACE-OFF OVER
BENGALURU INFRA

Diary Times Desk : Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Biocon founder and a key voice of India Inc., met Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar at their homes in Bengaluru this morning. The entrepreneur, it is learnt, visited the Congress leaders to invite them to her nephew's wedding. The meetings have created a buzz because they come in the aftermath of heated exchanges between Shaw and Karnataka ministers over infrastructure in Bengaluru.

While Shaw did not speak to the media, Shivakumar said in a post on X that they had an "engaging discussion on Bengaluru's growth, innovation, and the path ahead for Karnataka's growth story".

Earlier, Shivakumar had attributed Shaw's criticism of Bengaluru's infrastructure, including the condition of its roads, to "personal agenda" and questioned why such issues were not flagged when the BJP was in power in Karnataka. Shaw contested this and said she criticised "deteriorating infrastructure" in Bengaluru during the BJP and JDS regimes too. "Our agenda is clear, clean up and restore roads," she said.

HIT BY HEAVY RAIN, TAMIL
NADU READIES SHELTERS,
BRACES FOR POSSIBLE
CYCLONE

Diary Times Desk : Several districts across Tamil Nadu are preparing rescue and relief plans as the northeast monsoon intensifies amid its early onset, officials said. There is a possibility of a cyclone developing, the weather office said. The regional office on Tuesday issued a heavy rainfall alert, and Chief Minister MK Stalin reviewed the precautionary measures.

The weather office forecast extremely heavy rain in four districts of Tamil Nadu tomorrow - Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Cuddalore and Mayiladuthurai.

A red alert has been issued for at least eight districts in the coastal state - Villupuram, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam, Tiruvallur, Thanjavur, Pudukottai and Ramanathapuram. Schools and colleges in four districts will remain shut. The state capital Chennai is under the 'orange alert' category so far.

A 'red alert' indicates extremely heavy rain of over 20 cm in 24 hours, while an 'orange alert' means very heavy rain of 11 cm to 20 cm.

WHY DELHI'S PM2.5 LEVELS DROPPED
RAPIDLY POST DIWALI



Diary Times Desk : Concentration of PM2.5, tiny airborne particles that can get absorbed into the bloodstream and pose significant health risks, surged by midnight to the second-highest recorded in Delhi over the past five Diwalis, but plummeted just as rapidly by Tuesday afternoon.

This drop for a post-Diwali day, experts told ThePrint, was mainly because of weather conditions and a lower-than-usual count of farm fires.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data shows that Delhi's concentration of PM2.5 peaked at an hourly average of 675 micrograms per cubic metres (ug/m3) at midnight on 21 October. But it was down to 82 ug/m3 by 3 pm Tuesday.

"It is quite common for Diwali night to see extreme pollution, and then a steep fall the next morning. As the sun rises, the particles start dissipating. Also, the winds were favourable and since it was not too cold, particulate matter did not stay in the air for too long," said Shambhavi Shukla.

HIT BY HEAVY RAIN, TAMIL NADU
READIES SHELTERS, BRACES FOR
POSSIBLE CYCLONE

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PRASHANT KISHOR'S THREAT
CHARGE AGAINST BJP AFTER
3 JAN SURAAJ DESERTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Accusing the BJP of intimidating Jan Suraaj Party candidates, poll strategist-turned-politician Prashant Kishor today said three picks of his party were pressured into withdrawing their nomination for the upcoming Bihar election. Kishor also told NDTV that he would raise the issue with the Election Commission.

"The BJP has built an image in the last few years that no matter who wins elections, the BJP forms the government. Look at the condition of the party that called Jan Suraaj a vote-cutter and said we have no identity. The polling process has begun, and NDA is terrified." "And they are not afraid of the Mahagathbandhan, which they use to scare people. They warn the people that if they don't vote for them, Lalu Yadav's 'Jungle Raj' will return. This time, people have a new option, Jan Suraaj. Jan Suraaj is the way out of the 30-year slavery, because of which people are forced to vote for the BJP and Nitish Kumar because of Lalu ji's fear, and for Lalu ji because of the BJP's fear," Kishor said.

ANTI-TANK ROCKET RECOVERED IN
PUNJAB, 2 TERROR ACCUSED
ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : Two terrorists who were in touch with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) were arrested in Punjab's Amritsar and a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) was recovered from them, the police chief of the border state said today.

A possible terror attack was averted with the arrests.

Punjab Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said the two terror accused were in contact with an ISI operative and another jailed suspect identified as Harpreet Singh alias Vicky. "The RPG was intended for a targeted terror attack. FIR has been registered at PS Gharinda, Amritsar. Further investigation is underway to unearth the entire network," Yadav said in a post on X.

The two were on a motorcycle when they were intercepted based on intelligence inputs about their activities. The two-wheeler has been seized too.

INDIA UPHELD RIGHTEOUSNESS, AVENGED INJUSTICE DURING OP
SINDOOR: PM MODI IN LETTER TO CITIZENS

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday penned a letter to the citizens of India, a day after Deepavali, highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor and reaffirming his government's commitment to eradicating terrorism and Naxalism.

Modi emphasised that India has emerged as a beacon of stability at a time when the world is grappling with a multitude of crises. Drawing attention to the benefits of recent GST reforms, the Prime Minister noted that citizens are saving thousands of crores of rupees during the 'GST Bachat Utsav'. He also made a strong appeal to the people to support indigenous products and embrace the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'.

"All these efforts will rapidly take us towards a Viksit Bharat," Modi stated in his letter, which followed his Diwali celebration with naval personnel aboard the indigenously built aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.





DR. NIRAV SHAH SPEAKS ON ENTERING GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Diary Times Desk :

Another well-known name has joined the already long list of Democratic candidates running for governor in 2026.

Dr. Nirav Shah announced his gubernatorial campaign Monday morning.

Shah was appointed by Gov. Janet Mills in 2019 to be the director of the Maine C.D.C. He became a familiar face to Mainers with his regular briefings during COVID.

Shah went on to hold the title of Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. C.D.C.

He says Mainers are struggling with high housing costs, limited healthcare and childcare options, and food insecurity among children.

He hopes to change that.

Shah made several stops around the state today including one in Waterville to chat with Mayor Michael Morris.

"What I've done in my career for public service is make government work for people," said Shah. "Mainers have seen me in action delivering results for everyday people in times of crisis. That's the same set of skills that I want to bring in being the next governor."

WHY ZOHRAN MAMDANI'S VISIT TO BROOKLYN MOSQUE KICKED UP POLITICAL ROW IN US - THERE'S A 1993 WTC BOMBING LINK

Diary Times Desk : A seemingly ordinary photo shared by New York mayoral front-runner Zohran Mamdani during his visit to Masjid At-Taqwa has sparked a major controversy in the United States. The uproar is not over his visit itself, but over his photograph with a cleric alleged to have links to the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing.

Last week, the 34-year-old Indian-origin Democrat attended Friday prayers at the Brooklyn mosque, where he was photographed smiling and standing hand-in-hand with imam Siraj Wahhaj — an "unindicted co-conspirator" in the 1993 bombing that killed six people.

Mamdani posted the pictures on social media, describing Wahhaj as one of the country's "foremost Muslim leaders" and a "pillar" of Brooklyn's Muslim community, prompting a sharp backlash from Republicans, former President Donald Trump, and tech billionaire Elon Musk.

ON CAMERA, MASKED ISRAELI SETTLERS' "BRUTAL AMBUSH"

Diary Times Desk : A Palestinian woman was critically injured after a masked Jewish settler attacked her with a stick in the central West Bank's Turmus Ayya village. The unprovoked attack was captured on video by US journalist Jasper Nathaniel, who said the Israeli settler knocked the 55-year-old woman—a Palestinian farmer-- unconscious with his stick.

The woman was identified as Afaf Abu Alia, alias Umm Saleh, who had gone to the field to harvest her family's olives. Sharing the video on X, Nathaniel wrote, "October 19, 2025. On the first day of the olive harvest in Turmus Ayyer, the Israeli Defence Force leads a group of farmers directly into a brutal ambush by armed settlers."

"These people need to be in prison by tomorrow, and the people of this village, and all across Palestine, need to be protected. Enough is enough," he added.

KAROLINE LEAVITT BLASTS REPORTER BY POSTING SCREENSHOT OF HIS PRIVATE TEXTS. NOW HER BIZARRE REPLY IS GOING VIRAL



Diary Times Desk : Karoline Leavitt has the internet talking after sharing a private text exchange condemning a journalist.

On Monday, Oct. 20, the 28-year-old White House Press Secretary posted a private message between herself and HuffPost White House correspondent S.V. Dáte to social media, showing her sarcastic response to one of his questions about a planned meeting between President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In his initial text, Dáte asked Leavitt if Trump was "aware of the significance of Budapest" as the politician, 79, selected the capital of Hungary as the place to meet with Putin.

'QUIET': TRUMP BASHES INDIA-BORN AUSSIE REPORTER FOR 'NOT KNOWING ANYTHING' AFTER BLUNT UKRAINE QUESTION

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump and Latika M Bourke, an Australian reporter of Indian origin, crossed paths during his first official meeting with Prime Minister Anthony Albanese at the White House on Monday local time. She raised blunt questions about Russia's war in Ukraine following the MAGA leader's meet-up with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. However, the exchange between them transpired in such a way that it ended with the 79-year-old POTUS completely shutting down the reporter.

The Australian woman affiliated with The Nightly challenged Trump amid continued negotiations to land a peace deal between Ukraine and Russia. Briefly looking back at US First Lady Melania Trump's "peace letter" addressing the plight of children stuck in the middle of the harrowing war-stricken situation.

POLAND ISSUES WARNING TO PUTIN AGAINST USING ITS AIRSPACE, SAYS 'RISK OF ARREST'

Diary Times Desk : Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski warned that should Russian President Vladimir Putin attempt to transit through Polish airspace on his way to a summit with US President Donald Trump, it could be forced to execute an international arrest warrant if he did.

Speaking to Radio Rodzina, Sikorski said, "I cannot guarantee that an independent Polish court won't order the government to escort such an aircraft down to hand the suspect to the court in The Hague."

No meet date yet

Kremlin officials downplayed the urgency of summit plans, emphasising that no specific dates had been finalised.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for President Putin, said, "We cannot postpone something that has not been finalised. Neither President Trump nor President Putin have given exact dates. Preparation is needed, serious preparation."

SHEHBAZ SHARIF'S DIWALI GREETING SPARKS BACKLASH; NETIZENS ASK, "ARE THERE ANY HINDUS LEFT IN PAKISTAN?"

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's Diwali greeting to the Hindu community has drawn sharp reactions online, with many social media users accusing him of hypocrisy and questioning the treatment of minorities in the country.

On Sunday, Sharif posted a message on social media extending greetings on Diwali, saying the festival symbolises light over darkness and good over evil.

"As homes and hearts are illuminated with the light of Diwali, may this festival dispel darkness, foster harmony, and guide us all toward a future of peace, compassion, and shared prosperity," he wrote.

Others accused the Pakistan government of systemic discrimination against minorities, citing incidents of forced conversions and attacks on temples.

One user wrote, "After killing Hindus in Pahalgam, wishing Hindus on Diwali. Shameless Pakistan."

They have systematically killed and converted Hindus, Christians, and Sikhs in Pakistan... the most third-class terror country in the world,"





"I DON'T LIKE YOU EITHER": TRUMP SLAMS AUSTRALIAN ENVOY IN FRONT OF PM



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Monday expressed disdain towards Australia's ambassador, former prime minister Kevin Rudd, as the two sat face-to-face across the cabinet table in the White House.

Trump and his top aides were meeting with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in an otherwise friendly meeting that confirmed a deal on submarines.

Asked by a reporter how he felt about Rudd's previous criticism of the US president, Trump said "maybe he'll like to apologize."

Turning to Albanese at his side, Trump said, "Where is he? Is he still working for you?" Albanese smiled awkwardly before gesturing to Rudd, who was sitting directly in front of them.

THEY DREAMED OF STUDYING IN THE US. TRUMP'S VISA POLICIES HAVE FORCED THEM TO LOOK ELSEWHERE

Diary Times Desk : For decades, families in India have dedicated years and much of their finances toward a singular goal: getting their children a degree from a US university. Despite the hefty cost – often bore in staggering loans – the risk was palatable because the reward was likely a career launchpad that no other country in the world could offer. But seismic policy shifts under President Donald Trump – from his recently announced \$100,000 fee for H-1B work visas to his administration's tightening scrutiny on international students and immigration crackdown – have many of those students and their families questioning that longstanding thinking.

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.

IRAN SECRETLY REBUILDS PARCHIN NUCLEAR SITE



Diary Times Desk : New satellite imagery analyzed by nuclear expert David Albright and the Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS) has uncovered ongoing reconstruction at the Taleghan 2 facility within Iran's restricted Parchin military complex, a site historically associated with nuclear weapons development under the Amad Plan. The Amad Plan, Iran's covert nuclear weapons program officially halted in 2003, utilized Taleghan 2 for high explosive testing related to nuclear detonation including a containment chamber for such experiments.

PAKISTAN AND THE AFGHAN TALIBAN AVOID A DEEPER WAR FOR NOW, BUT HOW LONG CAN THE PEACE HOLD?

Diary Times Desk : In recent weeks Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban have engaged in the most serious military clashes between the two neighbours in several years.

Qatar and Turkey mediated a ceasefire on Sunday, bringing an end to the hostilities that have killed dozens of people and wounded hundreds.

Both countries have agreed to respect one another's territorial integrity. They will meet again in Istanbul later this week to discuss the next steps.

Yet, the situation remains tense, as the underlying causes of the conflict have yet to be resolved.

A haven for terrorism

At the heart of the conflict is Islamabad's claim the Afghan Taliban have been harbouring and aiding the Pakistani Taliban (also known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP) in order to change Pakistan along the lines of the Taliban's extremist Islamic rule in Afghanistan.

STRAPLESS DRESS, BARE HEAD: IRAN'S PRO-HIJAB LEADER UNDER FIRE AFTER DAUGHTER'S WEDDING VIDEO GOES VIRAL

Diary Times Desk : Iran's headline Islamic regime, led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is embroiled in a type of scandal seldom seen in the Islamic Republic. The controversy surrounds the wedding of Khamenei's close aide's daughter, where the bride was seen wearing a strapless wedding gown, with critics accusing the regime of hypocrisy over its draconian hijab diktat.

The video in question is from the 2024 wedding of Ali Shamkhani's daughter. Shamkhani is one of Iran's most senior defence and national security officials and a confidant of Khamenei, who has advocated for the enforcement of strict Islamic rules on women and girls and ordered violent crackdowns on protesters.

In 2022, Shamkhani was leading Iran's National Security Council when a nationwide uprising convulsed Iran, with women taking to the streets and burning their headscarves in protest of the country's hijab rule.

In the old clip recently doing the rounds on social media, Admiral Shamkhani, a member of Iran's Expediency Council.



PLANS FOR TRUMP-PUTIN MEETING SHELVED DAYS AFTER BUDAPEST TALKS

Diary Times Desk : There are "no plans" for US President Donald Trump to meet Russia's Vladimir Putin "in the immediate future", a White House official has stated.

Last Thursday Trump said he and the Russian president would hold talks in Budapest within two weeks to discuss the war in Ukraine.

A preparatory meeting between US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov was due to be held this week - but the White House said the two had had a "productive" call and that a meeting was no longer "necessary".

The White House did not share any more details on why the talks had been put on hold.

Trump had discussed a Budapest summit over the phone with Putin, a day before meeting Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky in the White House.

Some reports suggested his talks with Zelensky had been a "shouting match".



EUROPE'S LEADERS BACK TRUMP CALL FOR FRONTLINE FREEZE BUT RUSSIA SAYS NO

Diary Times Desk : European leaders have joined Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky in insisting that any talks on ending the war in Ukraine should start with freezing the current front line, and warned that Russia is not serious about peace.

In a statement signed by 11 leaders including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, they said they "strongly support" US President Donald Trump's position that "the fighting should stop immediately, and that the current line of contact should be the starting point of negotiations".

But Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Tuesday dismissed the idea of halting the conflict at the current contact line.

Moscow was only interested in "long-term, sustainable peace", Lavrov said, implying that freezing the front line would only amount to a temporary ceasefire.

ISRAEL CONTINUES DEADLY GAZA TRUCE BREACHES AS US SEEKS TO STRENGTHEN DEAL

Diary Times Desk : Israel has continued its air strikes and shootings in Gaza, raising fears over the future of its fragile ceasefire deal with Hamas, as United States envoys ramp up diplomacy to get the deal back on track.

The Palestinian Civil Defence agency said that four people were killed in two separate attacks, both times "by Israeli gunfire as they were returning to check on their homes" in the al-Shaaf area, east of Tuffah neighbourhood, in eastern Gaza City.

The yellow line, set out in a map shared by US President Donald Trump on October 4, is the boundary behind which Israeli troops pulled back and remain stationed under the ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

Gaza City residents reported confusion over the line's location because of a lack of a visible boundary. "The whole area is in ruins.

FRIENDLY ALBANESE-TRUMP MEETING MASKS AUSTRALIA'S CREEPING DOUBTS ABOUT US

Diary Times Desk : From the White House on Monday, US President Donald Trump waxed lyrical about his country's friendship with Australia.

"We've been long-term, longtime allies and I would say there's never been anybody better," Trump told Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, at the pair's first official meeting.

"We fought wars together and we never had any doubts," he said.

Australia though, for arguably the first time in its history, is feeling some creep in.

The US has historically been seen as its best friend, the ultimate ally.

Before Albanese hopped on his flight to Washington for the meeting - which he's been desperately trying to organise for months - he said it was an important opportunity to "consolidate and strengthen" the connection.

"Australia and the United States have stood shoulder-to-shoulder in every major conflict for over a century," he said in a statement.

But in a world order which challenges Washington's dominance, and under an administration which is stretching many of its ties, Australia is casting a more critical eye on the relationship.

"The Trump administration is clearly fraying some of those long-held, unexamined beliefs about the reliability of the United States as an ally".



FRENCH EX-PRESIDENT SARKOZY BEGINS JAIL SENTENCE FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE CONSPIRACY

Diary Times Desk : Nicolas Sarkozy has become the first French ex-president to go to jail, as he starts a five-year sentence for conspiring to fund his election campaign with money from late Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi.

Not since World War Two Nazi collaborationist leader Philippe Pétain was jailed for treason in 1945 has any French ex-leader gone behind bars.

Sarkozy, who was president from 2007-2012, has appealed against his jail term at La Santé prison, where he will occupy a small cell in the its isolation wing.

More than 100 people applauded and shouted "Nicolas!" as he left his villa in the exclusive 16th district of Paris, holding his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy by the hand.

His son Louis, 28, had appealed to supporters for a show of support, while another son, Pierre, called for a message of love - "nothing else, please".

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE TO VISIT US SEEKING SIMILAR DEFENCE PACT TO QATAR: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is headed to the White House next month to meet with the very same man he came to see on his last trip in 2018, US President Donald Trump.

The Financial Times is reporting that the crown prince is looking to leave the meeting with a signed deal in hand, likely to be some sort of defence pact akin to the executive order Trump signed on Qatar, in the wake of Israel's attack on Doha last month.

Qatar hosts the largest US military base in the Middle East at al-Udeid. While it is friendly with the Saudis now, it was the subject of a Saudi-led blockade from 2017-2021, which highlighted the ideological split among Arab and Muslim nations that were compelled to choose a side.

Saudi Arabia hosts three US air force bases, largely near its western flank on the Red Sea.

Mohammed bin Salman is also seeking enhanced military and intelligence cooperation, given the upheaval in the region over the last two years, The Financial Times said.

Perhaps most importantly, Saudi Arabia knows they have a very willing partner in this US president.



DEADLY GAZA FLARE-UP TESTS ISRAEL-HAMAS CEASEFIRE



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's "Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers" dilutes the relevancy of H1-B visas and has repercussions for attracting foreign students. H1B has been essential to American economic innovation and competitiveness.

Instead, students may increasingly choose other economies, like Australia, France, and Germany. The US has opportunities to course correct by revising and strengthening the H1B program, consulting stakeholders, and investing in manufacturing and skill development to retain talent and build a strong domestic industrial base.

The \$100,000 fee per new H-1B petition will affect private employers seeking foreign talent, especially in tech and computer-related fields. In FY-2024, employers obtained 255,250 H1-B visas for computer-related fields alone - 64% of the total H1-B visas issued. That year, 283,397 Indians received H1Bs—an astounding 71%.

"DO WHAT'S RIGHT OR...": TRUMP WARNS HAMAS OF "FAST, FURIOUS AND BRUTAL" END

Diary Times Desk : Numerous US allies have said they would welcome the opportunity to go into Gaza and straighten out Hamas with "heavy force," but there is no need for that yet, President Donald Trump said on Tuesday.

"Numerous of our NOW GREAT ALLIES in the Middle East, and areas surrounding the Middle East, have explicitly and strongly, with great enthusiasm, informed me that they would welcome the opportunity, at my request, to go into GAZA with a heavy force and "straighten our Hamas" if Hamas continues to act badly, in violation of their agreement with us," Trump posted on Truth Social.

"FAST, FURIOUS, & BRUTAL"

The US President added, "I told these countries, and Israel, "NOT YET!" There is still hope that Hamas will do what is right. If they do not, an end to Hamas will be FAST, FURIOUS, & BRUTAL! I would like to thank all of those countries that called to help."

LOUVRE HEIST: ALL ABOUT 8 STOLEN ITEMS THAT BELONGED TO FRENCH QUEENS, EMPRESSES

Diary Times Desk : Here are five things to know about the eight priceless pieces of jewellery stolen in an audacious heist from the Louvre Museum in Paris on Sunday.

Illustrious

The stolen pieces span two centuries of history and belonged to queens and empresses of France.

Empress Eugenie's tiara and crown were crafted by the renowned jeweller Alexandre-Gabriel Lemonnier shortly after her marriage to Napoleon III in 1853. Both pieces were stolen, but the crown was abandoned by the thieves as they fled.

"This tiara is the one that she wore almost daily at court and that can be seen in her official portraits. She valued it greatly," Pierre Branda, a historian and scientific director of the Napoleon Foundation, told AFP.

AFGHANISTAN REJECTS PAKISTAN'S ALLEGATIONS LINKING INDIA TO REGIONAL TENSIONS, CALLS IT 'ILLOGICAL'

Diary Times Desk : Afghanistan's Defence Minister, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob Mujahid, has strongly refuted Pakistan's accusations that India is behind rising tensions in the region. In a recent interview, Mujahid dismissed the claims as "baseless, unfounded, illogical, and unacceptable," stressing that Afghanistan does not allow its territory to be used against any other nation.

According to an Al Jazeera report, clarifying Kabul's position, Mujahid stated that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan is committed to maintaining peaceful and cooperative relations with all its neighbors, including Pakistan. "Our policy will never involve using our land against another country," he said.

He further emphasised that Afghanistan conducts its foreign relations independently and will continue to develop its relationship with India based on national interests.

"We maintain relations with India as an independent nation and will strengthen those ties within the framework of our national interests," he added.

Mujahid reiterated that Kabul seeks regional stability, not conflict, and urged all parties to focus on dialogue and cooperation rather than blame.



WHO IS PAYING FOR TRUMP'S WHITE HOUSE BALLROOM?

Diary Times Desk : As construction begins on President Donald Trump's new, \$250m (£149m) White House ballroom, mystery continues to swirl around the identities of the wealthy donors and corporations paying for it.

Groundbreaking for the ornate 90,000 sq ft (8,360 sq m) project began on Monday, with excavators and construction workers tearing out portions of the East Wing.

The US president has said that he personally will pay for significant portions of its construction, and suggested that some still anonymous donors would be willing to spend more than \$20m to complete the project.

The funding model has sparked concern among some legal experts, who say it may amount to paying for access to the administration.

"I view this enormous ballroom as an ethics nightmare," Richard Painter, a former chief ethics lawyer in the Bush White House between 2005 and 2007, told the BBC.

"It's using access to the White House to raise money. I don't like it," he added. "These corporations all want something from the government."

A dinner for potential donors held at the White House on 15 October included senior executives from prominent American companies including Blackstone, OpenAI, Microsoft, Coinbase, Palantir, Lockheed Martin, Microsoft, Amazon and Google.

SANAE TAKAICHI MAKES HISTORY AS JAPAN'S FIRST FEMALE PRIME MINISTER

Diary Times Desk : Sanae Takaichi has been elected Japan's prime minister by its parliament, making her the first woman to hold the office.

The 64-year-old won a clear majority on Tuesday - 237 votes in the powerful Lower House and another 125 in the Upper House - as leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

A staunch conservative and admirer of the late former UK PM Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi takes over at a challenging economic moment as Japan grapples with a rising cost of living and a frustrated public.

It's also been an uncertain time for the world's fourth-largest economy. She is the fourth PM in just five years, after her predecessors' terms were cut short by plunging ratings and scandals.

Although she defeated four men to win the LDP race in early October, her path to the top job appeared to be blocked when the LDP's long-time coalition partner, the Komeito party, withdrew support.



DOW GAINS 500 POINTS
AS WALL STREET
EMBRACES ROBUST
CORPORATE EARNINGS

Diary Times Desk :
Wall Street kicked off a new week in high gear as optimism rose that the 20-day shutdown of the federal government could soon draw to a close.

National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett told CNBC Monday he believes the shutdown is “likely to end sometime this week” and that the Trump administration would implement punitive new measures if Democrats in the Senate continue to hold out.

Traders are also feeling hopeful that the latest round of earnings reports will reveal positive corporate growth despite uncertainty in the economy. Around 86% of companies in the S&P 500 that have reported so far this quarter have beaten expectations, according to FactSet.

The Dow closed higher by 516 points on Monday, or 1.12%, partly fueled by shares of Apple (AAPL), which gained 3.94% and hit their first record high of the year after a report showed robust sales of the iPhone 17 model in the United States and China. The iPhone Air sold out in China just minutes after its launch, according to the South China Morning Post.

LENDINGTREE CEO AND
FOUNDER DOUG LEBDA
DIES IN ATV ACCIDENT

Diary Times Desk :
LendingTree CEO and founder Doug Lebda died in an all-terrain vehicle accident over the weekend, the online loaning platform said Monday. He was 55.

In a company announcement, LendingTree confirmed that Lebda died on Sunday and that the company was grieving his unexpected death. A spokesperson said the accident occurred at a family farm in North Carolina.

“Doug was a visionary leader whose relentless drive, innovation and passion transformed the financial services landscape, touching the lives of millions of consumers,” LendingTree’s board of directors said in a prepared statement. “His passion will continue to inspire us as we move forward together.”

TRUMP IS TRYING TO BREAK CHINA’S MONOPOLY ON RARE EARTHS,
BUT CAN’T CUT DEALS FAST ENOUGH TO CATCH UP

Diary Times Desk : As Beijing weaponizes its dominance over rare earths supplies, US President Donald Trump is cutting deals to try to break the stranglehold. But his claim that America will have an abundance of the critical minerals in just one year’s time may be a fantasy.

“In about a year from now, we’ll have so much critical mineral and rare earths, and you won’t know what to do with them,” Trump said Monday, after unveiling a \$8.5 billion agreement to help Australia develop rare earths projects and secure United States access to those elements.

China controls more than 90% of the global output of refined rare earths, which are used to power everything from iPhones to electric vehicles, and this near-monopoly has become one of its most potent tools in its trade war with the US.

Rare earths emerged as a major sticking point between China and the US earlier this year after Beijing imposed unprecedented export controls on the critical minerals, which led to shortages worldwide, disrupting supply chains.

TRUMP IS BLAMING HOMEBUILDERS FOR THE HOUSING SHORTAGE.
BUT THE PROBLEM GOES MUCH DEEPER

Diary Times Desk : After five months and more rejected offers than she can remember, Stefanie Campagna was starting to doubt whether she might be able to buy a new home in Rochester, New York.

That was until this month, when one seller finally said yes. To get there, Campagna had to pay \$100,000 over the asking price, outbidding 36 other offers.

Her story is a sign of the times. In today’s housing market, even the lucky ones often face exhausting ordeals and need to stretch their budgets to land a home.

In the past few weeks, President Trump has blamed America’s largest homebuilders for the country’s housing affordability woes. In a social media post this month, Trump compared homebuilders to oil cartel OPEC, accusing them of sitting on empty lots to keep home prices artificially high.



SPOOKY SEASON WAS SHORT-LIVED ON WALL STREET

Diary Times Desk :
Is the nightmare on Wall Street over, or have traders just covered their eyes?

ICYMI: Last week, relentlessly rosy stock traders — who so far have been unfazed by threats of US troops patrolling American cities or the federal government shutdown or any number of other real-life horrors — finally got a scare from the shadowy realm of finance known as private credit.

The jump scares arrived, appropriately enough, like creepy twins with a warning from beyond the grave. First came the dual bankruptcies. The blowup of First Brands, an auto parts supplier accused of fraud, and Tricolor, a subprime auto lender, had been haunting investors for weeks. The concern is less about those businesses failing than it is about major banks’ exposure to them — and whether banks have been overlooking risks in private credit, where less-regulated non-bank entities lend money. Those fears crystallized when Jamie Dimon, the head of JPMorgan Chase, revealed that his bank would take a \$170 million loss on its loans to Tricolor.





AMAZON'S GLOBAL
OUTAGE EXPOSES
MAJOR
VULNERABILITIES TO
AMERICAN LIFE

Diary Times Desk :

It took a day without Amazon Web Services for Americans to realize how reliant the internet is on a single company.

It's not just that people couldn't place mobile orders for coffee at Starbucks or ask Alexa for the weather. Hospitals said crucial communications services weren't working, and teachers couldn't access their planned lessons for the day. Chime, a mobile banking service, was down, too, leaving people without access to their money. Ring and Blink cameras, along with most smart home devices, stopped working.

AWS is one of a small group of cloud computing juggernauts that form the backbone of the internet, providing businesses with backend computing tools needed to power crucial parts of their daily operations. That includes everything from storage to virtual servers that companies can use to develop and deploy apps without investing in their own hardware.

HOW RINGLING BROS.
CIRCUS IS TRYING TO
APPEAL TO THE TIKTOK-
ADDICTED GENERATION

Diary Times Desk :

The concept of a circus might be well known, but Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey admits it has a bit of an identity problem. "Kids already know how to play (games like) Ringling, they just don't know it by name," Juliette Feld Grossman, CEO of Feld Entertainment, told CNN. She is trying to modernize her family's 154-year-old brand for the latest generation.

So, the production company is pivoting to video — sort of. Feld Entertainment is expanding its YouTube presence with videos teaching kids skills like spinning plates and juggling to expose the circus to screen-attached kids who haven't heard of Ringling.

That hopefully will lead to ticket sales for the show, which was revamped two years ago following a six-year absence.

"They know how to get out a hula hoop and jump rope or a bunch of costumes and make a show," Grossman told CNN. "We want to introduce kids to circus arts through things that they already know and connect with things."

WARNER BROS. DISCOVERY PUTS ITSELF UP FOR SALE, CITING
INTEREST FROM 'MULTIPLE' SUITORS



Diary Times Desk : Warner Bros. Discovery, the parent of CNN, is contemplating a sale.

The media giant says it has received "multiple" expressions of interest from potential buyers, indicating that Paramount Skydance is not the only suitor for the media company.

In a Tuesday morning statement, WBD said its board of directors has started a "review of strategic alternatives," which could result in a sale of the entire company, a continuation of the current plan to split the company into two, or some other outcome.

Paramount has been making overtures to buy all of WBD in advance of the planned split, signaling that a behind-the-scenes bidding war is underway. The WBD board rebuffed the first offer, two people with knowledge of the matter told CNN last week. One of the sources said both sides recognized it was a "lowball" proposal by Paramount's new CEO, David Ellison.

COCA-COLA'S TRUMP-APPROVED SODA BEGINS TO ROLL OUT IN
THE UNITED STATES



Diary Times Desk : Coca-Cola has begun selling a soda that uses cane sugar, rather than high-fructose corn syrup, in the United States following a demand from President Donald Trump earlier this year.

A company spokesperson confirmed to CNN that the soda is now rolling out to "select" cities and retailers. Coke announced the soda was coming to the United States in July after Trump said the company had "agreed" to use cane sugar in its cola.

Some international versions of Coke use cane sugar, including Coca-Cola sold in Mexico, and the company already uses cane sugar in several other beverages it sells in the United States, including Simply lemonade, Gold Peak iced tea and Costa canned coffee

The high-fructose corn syrup used in American-made Coca-Cola is an ingredient that Trump's Health and Human Services secretary, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has aggressively advocated against.

Corn syrup is a common and cheap sweetener, which is why Coca-Cola made the switch many years ago. But sugar-filled soda isn't healthy, health experts have previously told CNN, whether it is made with cane sugar or corn syrup.

The arrival of a cane-sugar soda comes at a time when Coca-Cola is having success with sugar-free sodas and healthier drink options, like the relaunch of BodyArmor, and bottled water including Smartwater.

A highlight was Coca-Cola Zero Sugar, which volume grew 14% globally, the company reported in third-quarter earnings Tuesday. Shares jumped more than 3% in early trading.



AUSTRIAN PARAGLIDER
RESCUED FROM HIGHER
REACHES OF
DHAULADHAR IN
HIMACHAL'S KANGRA

Diary Times Desk : Austrian paraglider Jacob Krammer, who was stranded in the higher reaches of the Dhauladhar in Chhota Bhangal valley of Kangra district at a height of 14,000 feet, was rescued by a team of the Bir Billing Paragliding Association (BPA) on Tuesday morning.

Krammer went missing on Monday morning after taking off from Billing. The BPA launched a search operation in the higher reaches of the Dhauladhar on Monday evening.

It is the second paragliding mishap in the past two days. Briefing mediapersons here on Tuesday, Anurag Sharma, president of the BPA, said that as soon as it was reported to the BPA that the Austrian paraglider had not landed at the Chougan after taking off from Billing, a search operation was started with the help of a chopper. The rescue team came to know that Krammer was last spotted near Dehanasar areas of Chhota Bhangal.

PROPERTIES WORTH
CRORES GUTTED IN
FIRES IN HIMACHAL
PRADESH ON DIWALI
NIGHT

Diary Times Desk : Properties worth crores were gutted in at least half a dozen fires in Shimla and elsewhere on the Diwali night, officials said on Tuesday.

A total of 47 incidents of fire, at least three of them major, were reported on Monday night from across the state.

A big fire broke out in the upper floors of a multi-story hotel in Manikaran in Kullu district, forcing the tourists and hotel staff to rush out. No casualties were reported, and all tourists were safely evacuated.

Shimla district saw a major fire each in Rampur, Rohru, and Shimla Rural Assembly segment, gutting about 10 shops in all. Losses in these fires were pegged at about Rs 1.40 crore, fire officials said.

PUNJAB REPORTS 45 FARM FIRES ON DIWALI; TARN TARAN LEADS WITH HIGHEST
COUNT

Diary Times Desk : Punjab reported 45 incidents of stubble burning on Monday, the day of Diwali, marking a slight decrease following a record 67 farm fires reported the previous day—the highest so far this season.

The total number of farm fires this season has now reached 353, reflecting a 76 per cent drop compared to last year.

During the same period, 1,445 and 1,618 incidents of stubble burning were reported in 2024 and 2023, respectively.

Among districts, poll-bound Tarn Taran topped the list with 12 stubble burning incidents, followed by Patiala and Amritsar with eight incidents each.

Meanwhile, the bursting of crackers worsened the air quality levels across the state.



8 PUNJAB YOUTHS STRANDED IN
KAZAKHSTAN AFTER 'TRAVEL
FRAUD'; FORCED INTO LABOUR

Diary Times Desk : Eight youths from Punjab, mostly from the Ropar district, are stranded in Kazakhstan after allegedly falling victim to a travel scam.

The youths were allegedly lured abroad by a local agent with promises of lucrative driver jobs but were instead forced to perform hard labour under inhumane conditions.

A video showing the youths working as labourers in snow-covered areas of Kazakhstan has gone viral on social media, highlighting their plight.

According to reports, the stranded workers are enduring extreme distress, including freezing cold, hunger, and abuse. They are allegedly forced to carry heavy loads over long distances in mountainous terrain and live in cramped metal containers without adequate food or safety measures. The situation came to light when Harvinder Singh, one of the victims from Nangal, contacted BJP district president Ajayvir Singh Lalpura.

FAKE DESI GHEE FACTORY BUSTED
IN MOGA; FOUR UP INDIVIDUALS
HELD

Diary Times Desk : In a crackdown on food adulteration, the police and health department jointly busted an illegal factory engaged in large-scale production of fake desi ghee in Baghapurana town of Moga district.

According to officials, the spurious ghee was being manufactured by mixing refined and vegetable oils with synthetic essences to replicate the aroma and texture of pure desi ghee. The counterfeit product was then packaged under the labels of several well-known brands and supplied to the local market through a network of distributors.

Food Inspector Lovedeep Singh said a large quantity of adulterated ghee, raw materials and packing material bearing the names of reputed brands were seized during the raid.

“The factory operators were producing duplicate ghee on a commercial scale, posing a serious threat to public health,” he added. Police have arrested four individuals, all residents of Uttar Pradesh, in connection with the racket.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
22-10-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

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

Scorpio

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

Sagittarius

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

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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



AIR INDIA FLIGHT
SAFETY AUDITOR
FOUND DEAD IN
GURUGRAM PG
ACCOMMODATION

Diary Times Desk : A flight safety auditor with Air India died under suspicious circumstances in a PG accommodation in Gurugram. The deceased, Prafull Sawant, a resident of Mumbai, was staying at Gaurav PG in Sector 30. The police handed over the body to his kin after conducting a postmortem examination. The body will be taken to Mumbai by the 9 pm flight on Monday.

According to the police, Prafull Sawant, a Mumbai resident and Air India flight safety auditor, had been living at Gaurav PG in Sector 30 for a few days. The PG staff stated that Prafull had breakfast on Monday morning and then retired to his room. He sent the caretaker money for lunch via UPI and when the caretaker called to inquire about the lunch, Prafull didn't answer the phone. After repeated calls went unanswered, the caretaker went to his room, found the door locked from the inside, and heard his mobile phone ringing. The police were informed, and a team reached the spot. The police managed to open the door and found Prafull dead on the bed.

**76 ADVOCATES
DESIGNATED AS
'SENIOR' BY PUNJAB
AND HARYANA HIGH
COURT**

Diary Times Desk : More than a year after the process was initiated, the Punjab and Haryana High Court has designated 76 advocates as 'Senior Advocates', including at least five women. The decision, taken by the Chief Justice and Judges of the High Court, marks one of the largest designations in recent years, recognising advocates for their standing, professional eminence and distinction in advocacy. In all, 210 advocates had applied for the distinction under the High Court of Punjab and Haryana (Designation of Senior Advocates) Rules. Initially, 64 candidates were cleared for designation following interaction, but 12 more names were added after intense deliberations during the Full Court meeting. With the latest designations, the number of Senior Advocates practising before the High Court has crossed 300.

AIR QUALITY 'VERY POOR' IN MANY PARTS OF HARYANA; BAHADURGARH,
GURUGRAM WORST HIT

Diary Times Desk : The air quality in many parts of Haryana was recorded in the 'very poor' category while it was in the 'poor' bracket in parts of neighbouring Punjab on Tuesday.

Haryana's Bahadurgarh recorded the worst air quality as its Air Quality Index (AQI) was 358 at 8 am, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) data.

At 8 am, Jind recorded an AQI of 350. The monitoring stations in Gurugram's Sector 51 and Vikas Sadan recorded an AQI of 348 and 325, respectively.

The AQI was 343 in Rohtak, 307 in Bhiwani, 249 in Faridabad, 290 in Kaithal, 255 in Sonipat, 225 in Karnal, 234 in Kurukshetra, 231 in Panipat and 296 in Sirsa.



FORMER PUNJAB DGP MUSTAFA, EX-
MINISTER RAZIA SULTANA BOOKED
ON MURDER CHARGES OVER SON'S
DEATH

Diary Times Desk : Punjab's former director general of police Mohammad Mustafa and his wife Razia Sultana, a former state minister, have been booked in connection with the death of their son, Haryana Police said.

Akil Akhter, an advocate, died in Haryana's Panchkula on Thursday. Also booked in the case are Akhter's wife and sister.

The FIR was registered on October 20 under Sections 103 (1) and 61, which deal with murder and criminal conspiracy charges, after a man named Shamshuddin, in a complaint, alleged foul play in the death, saying Akhter died under "suspicious circumstances", the police said.

They have been booked based on Shamshuddin's complaint, which alleged Akhter had recorded a video levelling serious allegations against his family, they said.

PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH
COURT ORDERS TRANSFER AND
POSTING OF 27 JUDICIAL
OFFICERS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered the designation of nine Additional District and Sessions Judges (ADSJs) as District and Sessions Judges (DSJs) in Haryana. The administrative order, issued at Chandigarh on October 20, in all entails the transfer and posting of 27 judicial officers across the state.

As per a notification issued by the high court, Anil Kumar Bishnoi, presently Additional District and Sessions Judge and Presiding Officer, Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court-I, Faridabad, has been designated as District and Sessions Judge. He will continue to be posted at Faridabad.

Alka Malik, posted as Special Judge, CBI Court, Chandigarh, has been recalled from deputation and posted as District and Sessions Judge, Hisar, against a vacant post. Jagjit Singh, Principal Judge, Family Court, Jagadhri, has been designated as District and Sessions Judge, Sonapat. Ajay Prashar, presently serving at Fast Track Special Court under the POCSO Act in Bhiwani, has been designated as District and Sessions Judge, Kaithal.

DESPITE PADDY HARVEST DELAY & YIELD DIP, KARNAL MANDIS SEE SPIKE OF 2.33
LMT

Diary Times Desk : Even after widespread reports of delayed harvesting and lower yield due to rainfall and floods, Karnal district's grain markets have recorded an unexpected surge of 2.33 lakh metric tonnes (MT) in paddy arrivals this year, raising questions about the procurement process.

As per official data till October 18, the grain markets and purchase centres of the district have recorded arrivals of 8,58,076 MT of paddy, compared to 6,24,429 MT during the same period last year — marking an increase of 2,33,647 MT.

The unexpected surge in arrivals has raised eyebrows among both farmer unions and agricultural experts, who find the data inconsistent with ground realities.

"This year, rains delayed harvesting, and even then, yields are visibly lower by 8-12 quintals per acre in comparison to last year. Still, the grain markets of the district are showing a sharp increase in arrivals. Paddy is arriving from other states and being shown under the names of local farmers with the help of some officials of market committees, procurement agencies.





Why These Companies Want To Send Data Centers Into Space

Advances in artificial intelligence are driving surging demand for data centers. But these warehouse-like facilities, containing computers that process and store data, require a lot of land and huge amounts of energy, generating significant carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions.

Data center power demand will increase 165% by 2030, according to Goldman Sachs. Some data centers use renewables, and others are being constructed with renewable energy generation on-site, but clean energy sources like solar and wind farms require physical space, as does data center infrastructure.

Now, some are looking to put data centers into space, bypassing the problem of finding available land. Space also offers better access to solar energy, without the cloud cover, the darkness of nighttime or the seasonality of Earth.

In Europe, the ASCEND project aims to demonstrate the feasibility of space-based data centers for reducing CO2 emissions.

Last year, France-based Thales Alenia Space, which led a European Commission-funded

study into the feasibility of ASCEND, found that sending data centers to space to take advantage of continuous solar energy could offer "a more eco-friendly and sovereign solution for hosting and processing data." But that would be contingent on technological advancements in several areas, said Xavier Roser of Thales Alenia Space.

While the total emissions from rocket launches are currently only a fraction of those from the aviation industry, rockets release pollutants at higher altitudes, where they last longer.

The ASCEND study estimated that for space data centers to effectively reduce carbon emissions compared to their terrestrial counterparts would require the development of a launcher that emits 10 times less carbon over its lifecycle than current ones. It's not clear when or if such a rocket may be in development. SpaceX, which has revolutionized the cost of rockets with its fleet of Falcon launch vehicles, has not revealed any plans to debut a more environmentally friendly rocket design.



Madari founder and CEO Shareef Al Romaithi, who is also a pilot for Etihad Airways, said space-based data centers could benefit a variety of customers, including those with Earth observation satellites. He said storing and processing their raw observation data in space can reduce lag time in analyzing their findings, and "allow them to make informed decisions in a timely manner."

He hopes to eventually deploy a constellation of data satellites into orbit.

While that goal is a way off, Madari's first mission, scheduled for 2026, will send a payload about the size of a toaster oven — consisting of data storage and data processing components — into orbit aboard an Emirati satellite, part of the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)'s Access to Space for All Initiative.



Amy Guria

Still, it's very early days for the sector — and a giant leap to launch data centers big enough to offer an alternative to those on Earth. Cost will be key, with launch costs dependent on the weight of the payload.



Stephen Collinson

Trump has already announced that his administration has shuffled existing funds to paying military personnel and FBI officers, two of the few categories of government workers about whom he seems to care.

Democrats and Republicans

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO END THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN? NOTHING

Democrats are talking to their voters who are desperate to fight. Republicans rarely reach beyond their base. And President Donald Trump, supposedly the world's greatest dealmaker, is tuned out.



His move lifted one of the usual sources of political heat that usually end up solving shutdowns. None of the others are working either.

This Washington stasis explains why no end is in sight to a government shutdown now tied for the second-longest ahead of Trump's expected departure for Asia at the end of the week for summits. There's no sign he'll emulate his first predecessor, President Barack Obama, who canceled a tour of the region in 2013 because of a similar stalemate.

Yet the costs of the partial closure of federal operations are escalating.

Hundreds of thousands of government workers are furloughed. The administration has fired several thousand more. On Monday, most specialists who oversee the US nuclear stockpile at the National Nuclear Security Administration got furlough notices. More air traffic control staffing shortages were reported over the weekend, in an ominous foreshadowing of potential travel crunches if the impasse drags on until Thanksgiving. And time is ticking down to the expiry of critical

nutrition support for 42 million Americans next month.

Significant pain is being inflicted on federal workers who have mortgages and car payments coming due and on millions of citizens who rely on the government. But it hasn't yet reached leaders in both parties in sufficient volume to force them to seriously negotiate on a reopening. Three weeks in, neither side has moved beyond the first stage of shutdown politics — blaming the other.

Democrats have succeeded in using the shutdown to create a platform for their demands for Republicans to agree to extendenhanced Affordable Care Act subsidies, without which millions of policies will shoot up in price at the end of the year.

"This is day 20 of the Trump Republican shutdown and the government remains closed because Republicans have zero interest in actually providing affordable health care to everyday Americans," House Democratic Minority leader Hakeem Jeffries told CNN's Erin Burnett on Monday. "That's the challenge that the country faces right now."

But how do Democrats turn their success in elevating a key issue into a meaningful political victory? Republicans aren't shifting an inch on their refusal to hold talks on Obamacare subsidies until the government is opened — thereby depriving Democrats of leverage. And calls by some House progressives for multiyear extensions of the subsidies before the standoff ends appear rather optimistic.

Centrist Democratic senators, who might be looking for a way out, saw their position complicated this weekend by "No Kings" protests targeting Trump. They can hardly reach a compromise that looks like caving to the president after an estimated 7 million people got off their couches on Saturday to blast him as a wannabe dictator.

But Democratic attempts to split the usually deal-hungry Trump from Republicans in Congress have so far failed. INFA

Scientists Think The Mysterious Glow

IN OUR GALAXY COULD BE FROM DARK MATTER. WHAT THAT MEANS



Jacopo Prisco

"The problem was that all of the models over the past 20 years of the dark matter in our galaxy assume it's basically like a spherical ball. There is no shape to it, because that was the simplest model," Silk said.

At the center of our galaxy, there's a mysterious, diffuse glow given off by gamma rays — powerful radiation usually emitted by high-energy objects such as rapidly rotating or exploding stars.

NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope detected the glow shortly after launching in 2008, and the light has puzzled scientists ever since, prompting speculation on its cause.

Some astronomers believe the source of the glow to be pulsars — the spinning leftovers of exploded stars — while others point to colliding particles of dark matter, an elusive and invisible form of matter that is believed to be five times more abundant than regular matter.

Many studies have previously found support for both ideas, but there seemed to be a problem with the dark matter theory: The gamma ray glow appeared to match the shape of the galactic bulge — a crowded, bulbous region at the center of the Milky Way that's mostly made up of old stars, including pulsars. This observation seemed to support the pulsar theory, with experts theorizing that the glow would have taken a more spherical form if its source were dark matter. However, astronomers haven't

been able to observe enough of the pulsars that would be producing the gamma rays to make a conclusive assessment.

Now, new simulations made using supercomputers show for the first time that dark matter collisions could also have created the bulge-shaped glow, adding weight to the dark matter theory.

"We're in the situation where we have two theories, one posturing dark matter and claiming that it could explain the data we see, another one old stars," said Joseph Silk, a professor of physics and astronomy at the Johns Hopkins University and coauthor of a study detailing the new findings, published Thursday in the journal Physical Review Letters.

"There's a 50% chance that it might be dark matter at this point, as opposed to the slightly more mundane explanation of old stars, in my opinion." Evidence of dark matter would make for a groundbreaking discovery. Swiss astronomer Fritz Zwicky first theorized dark matter's existence in the 1930s, and American astronomers Vera Rubin and W. Kent Ford confirmed it in the 1970s. They noticed that stars orbiting at the edge of spiral galaxies were moving too quickly to be held

together by visible matter and gravity alone, and postulated that there was a large, unseen quantity of matter preventing them from flying apart. Despite decades of effort, scientists have never observed the mysterious substance directly, hence its name.

"There's no question that the nature of dark matter is one of the outstanding major problems in physics," Silk said. "It's something that's everywhere — near us, far from us, and we just don't know what it is."

Hunting for WIMPs There are many hypotheses on what dark matter could be, including remnants of primordial black holes or an undiscovered type of particle. Much of the effort to find dark matter has centered on the latter idea, leading to the construction of detectors such as the LZ Dark Matter Experiment in South Dakota.





DOMENICO GNOLI'S 'STRANGELY POETIC' ART

Diary Times Desk : The artist Domenico Gnoli was the golden boy of Italian art until his untimely death at the age of 36. His heyday was the late 1950s and the 1960s, during the relatively optimistic post-war period, when Gnoli was at the centre of a brilliant artistic milieu that included Cy Twombly, Robert Rauschenberg and Mimmo Rotella.

'God, how beautiful he is,' said Gnoli's one-time girlfriend, the sculptor Barbara Chase-Riboud, observing that he often 'ended up being the sensation of the evening, getting in the Italian newsreels'.

With his movie-star good looks and tousled hair, the artist conformed to the playboy stereotype. He was always seen at the right parties, and with the right people — the Rothschilds, the de Menils, and Richard Burton, who became a close friend. 'No strategy on my part,' Gnoli assured his mother, 'just luck!'

This charisma was matched by an extraordinary talent and a furious work ethic. In his brief, dazzling career, he created a body of work that was in a class of its own. 'No recognisable category can include the oddly poetic and strangely touching, semi-fantastic figure drawings by Domenico Gnoli,' wrote the art critic Stuart Preston.

Gnoli always seemed destined to become an artist. 'I was born knowing that I would be a painter,' he said, 'because my father, an art critic, always presented painting to me as the only acceptable thing.' Born into a highly cultured aristocratic family in Rome in 1933, Gnoli was expected from a young age to be able to identify different artistic styles and imitate them. 'Write down what you do and what you see, express what you think, because you always need to exercise your mind,' advised his father Umberto.

He took lessons with the Symbolist artist Carlo Alberto Petrucci, and had his first exhibition of Piranesi-inspired ink drawings at the precocious age of 18. By 20, he was working as a set designer at the Old Vic theatre in London (he had arrived with letters of introduction to Laurence Olivier and John Gielgud) and flirted with acting, appearing on film in the historical melodrama *The Flame*.

In 1954, he moved to Paris, where he supported himself by providing illustrations for the *Paris Review* and *Life* magazine, and observed with bemusement the antics of the American expat community.



'A NEW CHAPTER IN OUR LEGACY'——EDWARD WILKINSON ON THE INAUGURAL REGIONAL SALE IN HONG KONG

Diary Times Desk : Originally from Australia, Edward Wilkinson's passion for Asian art stems from a family trip to north India as a teenager, setting the stage for a distinguished career that commenced at a Sydney auction house. Over the past 25 years, he has curated numerous important private collections and facilitated their successful sales in the global auction market.

Earlier in 2025, Wilkinson joined Christie's as global head of Classical Indian, Himalayan and Southeast Asian Art, bringing with him a wealth of expertise and a profound understanding of the category and its market dynamics. As part of the global strategic initiative, he is expanding the global footprint of this category by introducing the first dedicated live auction in Hong Kong this autumn.

'This truly represents a new chapter in our legacy, where we bring forth objects of exceptional quality and initiate transcultural dialogue in the Asia Pacific region.' Says Wilkinson. His vision reflects Christie's commitment to fostering a deeper appreciation for the rich artistic traditions of these regions while engaging a diverse audience of collectors and connoisseurs.

The forthcoming auction presents an exceptional array of 40 works spanning over 1,800 years of Buddhist art, from the ancient region of Gandara through to Thailand. Wilkinson specifically highlights a remarkable, and newly re-attributed figure of Avalokiteshvara, a thangka attributed to the celebrated artist The Tenth Karmapa, Choying Dorje, as well as an impressive gilt copper alloy figure of Manjushri.

Within the vast artistic continuum of Indo-Himalayan and Chinese Buddhist sculpture, this figure of Avalokiteshvara stands as a singular masterpiece, embodying a harmonious synthesis of Pala, Newar, and Classical Chinese elements. Produced in the early 14th century, likely at Dadu (modern Beijing), the capital of the Yuan dynasty, this sculpture marks a defining moment in the evolution of Sino-Tibetan Buddhist art. Its remarkable stylistic fusion became the foundation for the next two centuries of Buddhist artistic production across the Asian plateau.

At the heart of this sculpture's brilliance is the artist's sensitive rendering of Avalokiteshvara's youthful, semi-wrathful expression, imbued with both compassion and latent power. The plump cheeks, small mouth with well-defined lips, and finely inset urna relate directly to the Newar and Xi Xia aesthetic, distinguishing this face from earlier Tibetan and Pala precedents. The forelocks, neatly arranged in radiating curls, and the double-banded hair across the back of the head, display meticulous craftsmanship characteristic of Yuan court commissions.





REAL MADRID TAKE DRASTIC ACTION IN BID TO STOP VILLARREAL VS BARCELONA BEING PLAYED IN US



Diary Times Desk : It appears that Real Madrid are hell bent on ensuring that the La Liga fixture between FC Barcelona and Villarreal does not end up being played in Miami, USA.

In what would be a historic event, the Villarreal vs Barcelona match, on 20 December, has been moved from Estadio de la Ceramica to the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, making it the first Spanish league game to be played overseas.

But Real Madrid and several other La Liga clubs are opposing the initiative, stating that it would distort the competition.

As already reported, the Spanish capital club have approached the Higher Sports Council (CSD) to express their concerns and block the match from being moved outside of Spain. Not stopping there, Real Madrid have now taken another drastic step in their efforts to try and stop La Liga's "Miami plan" from coming to fruition.

REAL MADRID STAR CRITICISES VILLARREAL VS BARCELONA BEING PLAYED IN MIAMI; FIRES SHOTS AT LAPORTA

Diary Times Desk : Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois has joined his teammate Dani Carvajal in criticising La Liga's decision to hold the game between Barcelona and Villarreal in Miami, USA.

With UEFA giving the green light, La Liga has already announced that the match will be played in the US on 20 December, but there is a lot of opposition to the plan.

Real Madrid have been the most vocal in their opposition to the Villarreal-Barça game being held outside of Spain.

Courtois hits out

As reported earlier today, Real Madrid have written a formal letter to the Higher Sports Council in Spain (CSD) to express their concern over the development.

Los Blancos' captain, Dani Carvajal, was also critical of the proposal, stating that it 'adulterated' the competition.

Now, Courtois has also joined the bandwagon, echoing his club's firm opposition to the plan.

BARCELONA EYE TWO MATCHES IN NOVEMBER AS OPTIONS FOR SPOTIFY CAMP NOU RETURN

Diary Times Desk : According to SPORT, it has come to light that Barcelona's upcoming La Liga fixture against Elche on November 2 will be played at the Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys in Montjuïc.

The news ends days of speculation about whether the club might be ready to return to the Spotify Camp Nou earlier than expected.

As a result, the club hopes to make their long-awaited comeback at their newly renovated home either against Athletic Bilbao on November 22 or Alaves on the weekend of November 29-30.

However, the reality is that certain stages of the stadium's construction remain incomplete, forcing Barcelona to stay at Montjuïc a little longer.

Patience as Camp Nou awaits full readiness

While fans are eager to see their team back at Camp Nou, the club believes it is not yet practical to do so.

Even though Barça already hold the First Occupation Building License for Phase 1A, this stage would only allow 26,000 spectators inside the ground.

BARCELONA'S LONG-TERM LEWANDOWSKI REPLACEMENT COULD COST CLUB €150 MILLION – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona's pursuit of attacking reinforcements has taken an interesting turn, as reports from SPORT reveal that it could cost the Catalan around €150 million to land Atletico Madrid's Argentine forward Julian Alvarez.

The Blaugrana are already planning for the post-Robert Lewandowski era, with the Polish striker's contract set to expire in 2026 and no talks of renewal currently taking place.

The club's sporting department, led by Deco, wants to bring in a player who can be part of the long-term project under Hansi Flick rather than a short-term fix, and Alvarez fits that profile perfectly.

Not an easy operation to execute

Alvarez has quietly risen to prominence since joining Atletico Madrid from Manchester City. His performances have drawn attention across Europe, but the forward has so far remained tight-lipped about his future.



LAPORTA ADDRESSES REAL MADRID'S OPPOSITION TO VILLARREAL VS BARCELONA IN MIAMI – 'WE'RE USED TO THIS'

Diary Times Desk : Tensions are rising between FC Barcelona and Real Madrid over multiple matters just a few days before the first El Clasico of the season.

The biggest issue seems to be La Liga's plan to play the game between Villarreal and Barcelona in Miami, USA – something that Real Madrid are staunchly opposing.

Real Madrid stars like Dani Carvajal and Thibaut Courtois have openly criticised the move, claiming that it 'adulterates' the competition.

Moreover, the Spanish capital club are understood to have written a formal letter to the Higher Sports Council (CSD) to look into the matter.

Laporta responds to Real Madrid opposition

Barcelona president Joan Laporta spoke to the media on Tuesday ahead of the official pre-match lunch before the team's Champions League clash with Olympiacos.

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA STARTING LINEUP AGAINST OLYMPIACOS – UCL DEBUT FOR TEENAGE PRODIGY

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona will take on Olympiacos in their third UEFA Champions League game of the season in a little over an hour at Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys.

With kickoff not far away, manager Hansi Flick has announced the Barcelona starting lineup for the game, with there being a surprise selection.

Teenage sensation Pedro Fernandez 'Dro', who is enjoying a breakthrough campaign, starts in attack for Barcelona, making his UEFA Champions League debut in the process.

The 17-year-old La Masia gem already started against Real Sociedad in La Liga and now does so in a European encounter.

Dro features in the Barça attacking unit alongside fellow La Masia graduates Lamine Yamal and Fermin Lopez, who starts after returning from injury against Girona. Meanwhile, Marcus Rashford leads the line as the centre-forward.

Frenkie de Jong has been given a rest by Flick, with Pedri and Marc Casado forming the double pivot in midfield.

No changes have been made in the defensive line, with Jules Kounde, Eric Garcia, Pau Cubarsi, and Alejandro Balde all starting once more. It means Ronald Araujo, who was the match-winner against Girona, is benched again.