

NEWS IN BRIEF

ANTWERP COURT PAVES WAY FOR EXTRADITION OF MEHUL CHOKSI, FINDS NO RISK OF TORTURE OR UNFAIR TRIAL IN INDIA

Diary Times Desk :

The Antwerp Court of Appeal has ruled that Indian businessman Mehul Choksi faces no real or serious risk of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment, or flagrant denial of justice if sent back to India, paving the way for his extradition to face prosecution in the Punjab National Bank fraud case. [Mehul Choksi v. Public Prosecutor General of the Court of Appeal, Antwerp] A Bench of President D Thys and Judges K Lenaers and I Arnauts dismissed Choksi's appeal and upheld the November 2024 order of the Antwerp trial court that had declared two Indian arrest warrants executable. India's Ministry of External Affairs had sought Choksi's extradition based on arrest warrants issued by the Special Judge .

MASSIVE FIRE IN MUMBAI'S 13-STORY BUILDING, 17 SUFFER FROM SUFFOCATION

Diary Times Desk :

As many as 17 persons suffered from suffocation after a fire broke out at a 13-storey commercial building in Mumbai's Jogeshwari suburb on Thursday morning, officials said. Nine of those who complained of suffocation were being treated at the nearby civic-run HBT Hospital, a civic official said, adding that eight others opted to be discharged against medical advice. Thick black smoke billowed across the glass facade as the fire started at JNS Business Center near Gandhi School around 10.50 am, he said. The blaze has been covered from all sides and dousing operations were underway, he added. A fire brigade official said that at least 12 fire engines and other firefighting equipment have been pressed into service. Fire brigade personnel rescued a total of 27 people including two women from various floors through the staircase and using hydraulic platform ladders, he said.

Flames were confined to electric wiring and installations, false ceilings, doors, windows, electric and AC ducts and furniture, the official informed.

"JUNGLE RAJ" IN BIHAR**JUNGLE RAJ WON'T BE FORGOTTEN FOR 100 YEARS: PM MODI'S SWIPE AT BIHAR OPPOSITION**

would tell all the youngsters in Bihar to gather all the young people at every booth and have the elderly people in that area come and tell everyone about the old stories from the jungle raj".

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the NDA had worked hard to "bring Bihar out of 'jungle raj' and establish the rule of law, now people proudly call themselves Bihari," PM Modi added.

The leaders of the opposition Grand Alliance, he said, only know how to fight among themselves and guard their self-interest. PM Modi said the coming election is another chance to write a new chapter in the history of the state, in which the younger generation will play a key role.

"In Bihar, work is happening in every sector, in every direction. Hospitals are being built, good schools are being established and new railway routes are being developed," he said.

"A major reason for this is that there is a stable government in the country and in Bihar. When there is stability, development accelerates. This is the strength of Bihar's NDA government as well... That is why youngsters in Bihar are saying with enthusiasm -- 'raftaar pakad chuka Bihar, phir se NDA sarkar'," PM Modi added.

KERALA ASHA WORKERS' PROTEST TURNS VIOLENT, 12 DETAINED

Diary Times Desk : A protest march organised by the Kerala ASHA Health Workers Association (KAHWA) in front of the Cliff House in Thiruvananthapuram escalated into a tense standoff on Wednesday.

The demonstration, which began at noon, was aimed at securing a meeting with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to address the workers' eight-month-long demand for improved service conditions.

Tensions flared when ASHA workers breached police barricades, prompting law enforcement to deploy water cannons five times to disperse the crowd. Police also confiscated microphones and speakers used by the protesters. In retaliation, demonstrators blocked a police jeep and staged a sit-in, leading to the arrest and removal of several participants.

Among those detained were 12 ASHA workers, including KAHWA General Secretary M A Bindu and Vice-President S Mini.

They were later shifted to the police camp in Nandavanam. Following the confrontation, the protest was relocated to the Secretariat, where workers have continued their agitation with a day-and-night sit-in. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan condemned the police response, calling it undemocratic. He urged the government to abandon repressive tactics and engage in dialogue with the protesting workers.

**J&K SET FOR 1ST RAJYA SABHA POLLS, NATIONAL CONFERENCE, BJP IN KEY CONTEST****Diary Times Desk :**

The first Rajya Sabha polls since Jammu and Kashmir's downgrading to a Union territory status are scheduled for Friday with political observers anticipating three seats for the ruling National Conference (NC) and one for the BJP, provided their strategies remain on course.

The elections for the four Rajya Sabha seats in J-K have been divided into three notifications.

Chowdhury Mohammed Ramzan of the NC is in a direct contest with Ali Mohammed Mir of the BJP in one of the seats.

For the second seat, NC's Sajjad Kitchloo will fight against Rakesh Mahajan of the BJP. The third notification will see a contest for two seats in which the NC has fielded party treasurer G S Oberoi, also known as Shammi Oberoi, and Imran Nabi Dar against BJP's Sat Sharma.

The NC on Thursday issued a whip to all its MLAs to ensure their presence for casting votes in favour of the party candidates.

Going by numbers, the 41-member strong NC, which has the backing of the six Congress and one CPM MLAs, and six Independents, is likely to sail through in three seats. The contest for the final seat is razor-thin.

The Assembly has a strength of 88 MLAs out of which the NC-led ruling coalition has 54.

The BJP, with 28 Assembly members, strategically named its Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Sat Sharma in the third notification.

IAS OFFICER VS MINISTER OVER LIQUOR HOLOGRAM TENDER IN TELANGANA

Diary Times Desk : Senior IAS officer Syed Ali Murtaza Rizvi, serving as Revenue Secretary (Commercial Taxes and Excise) in Telangana, has opted for voluntary retirement (VRS) with eight years remaining service, triggering speculation across bureaucratic and political circles. Though Rizvi has not disclosed the reasons behind his decision, official sources suggest growing friction between him and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao is the reason behind the senior bureaucrat's exit from governance.

There have been differences between the Excise Minister and the Excise Secretary over the pending High-Security Hologram tender, which is used for the tracking and authentication of liquor bottles across Telangana.

A letter written by Jupally Krishna Rao to Chief Secretary K Rama Krishna Rao has surfaced, in which he accused Rizvi of deliberately stalling the tender process for Rs 100 crore worth of High-Security Holograms project and allowing an old vendor, whose contract expired in June 2019, to continue supplying holograms without competition for more than six years.

The Minister in his letter advised the government to reject Rizvi's VRS request and initiate disciplinary and legal action.

Rizvi, a 2001-batch IAS officer known for his administrative efficiency, was transferred four times within two years once Congress took over power from BRS.

Sources said the frequent transfers and ministerial pressure forced Rizvi to opt for a voluntary retirement.

BHAIRAV LIGHT**INDIAN ARMY TO OPERATIONALISE 25 BHAIRAV LIGHT COMBAT BATTALIONS IN SIX MONTHS**

Diary Times Desk : Indian Army's transformation bid will touch another milestone as plans are afoot to get specialised Bhairav Light Combat Battalions operational within six months. Lieutenant General Ajay Kumar, Director General of the Indian Army's Arm of Infantry, said on Wednesday that five Bhairav battalions are now fully functional. Four more are currently in the process of being raised, and the remaining 16 will be operational within the next six months. "Designed to be lean and lethal, these battalions are built for rapid, high-impact operations along India's borders with China and Pakistan," he said, speaking to reporters ahead of the Shaurya Diwas celebrations. The Shaurya Diwas is celebrated on October 27 to commemorate the air-landed operations in 1947 at Budgam Airport in Jammu and Kashmir.

Infantry is the Army's largest fighting arm, with more than 400 units. The need for such specialised battalions was realised to fill the gap between a conventional infantry unit and the Special Forces. Tasked to conduct cross-border operations, reconnaissance and disruption missions, the Bhairav units will relieve Para-Special Forces for strategic assignments.

As earlier reported by The New Indian Express, Bhairav battalions will be deployed on special tasks and assignments to inflict damage on the enemy. However, these units will not be as heavily armed nor tasked with strategic operations like Special Forces units. The Army currently operates 380 infantry units, not including elite formations such as Para and Para SF battalions.

CJI SHOEGATE: DON'T REPLACE DISSENT WITH DOGMATISM

Diary Times Desk : On October 6, lawyers in the Supreme Court were apparently perturbed when an advocate abruptly hurled a shoe at the Bench led by the Chief Justice of India. Yet, the CJI and Justice K Vinod Chandran remained calm and continued the proceedings. The act was purportedly a token of protest against the CJI for certain remarks he had made while hearing a public interest litigation. The PIL was for restoration of a statue of Lord Vishnu at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.

The Bar Council and the Supreme Court Bar Association acted promptly and suspended the advocate, effectively blocking his practice at least for the time being. Of late, sanction for prosecuting the advocate for criminal contempt has been granted by the attorney general.

Such incidents are, however, not unprecedented. It is heard that decades ago, another CJI in the Supreme Court faced a similar situation with shoes thrown upon him. He then ordered the return of the shoes to the litigant, saying that he who lost the case should not also lose the shoes!

In the UK in the 1960s, when books were thrown at a Bench comprising Lords Denning and Diplock, they refused to take action for contempt against the woman, earning praise from her as she was being led away. However, in 2009, in another disturbing incident, a woman who threw a slipper at a judge of the Supreme Court of India was immediately taken to custody and proceeded against.

Unlike these events, the latest assault was not by a disgruntled litigant, but by a person who was part of the institution, a citizen who was supposed to uphold rule of law. The motive was not merely personal but also ideological.

TOXIC AIR IS BACK AGAIN IN DELHI - HERE'S WHY IT'S SO HARD TO STOP IT

Diary Times Desk : Every year, like clockwork, Delhi chokes.

A thick, toxic haze settles over the city - stinging eyes, burning throats and sending air quality monitors into panic mode.

For the past few days, the air in Delhi and its neighbouring satellite cities has hovered between the "poor" and "very poor" categories.

It worsened sharply after Diwali, one of India's biggest festivals, as fireworks lit up the night sky and filled the air with smoke. Headlines reported that it was the worst post-Diwali air quality the city had experienced in the past four years.

With that, the city once again found itself confronting its annual, predictable - yet avoidable - crisis: air pollution.

There isn't a single factor to blame for the toxic air.

CENTRE'S KEY CHANGES TO CONTENT RULES AFTER LEGAL FIGHT WITH ELON MUSK'S X

Diary Times Desk : Following a legal battle with Elon Musk's X over social media guidelines, the Centre has made key amendments to the Information Technology law to "enhance transparency, accountability and safeguards". One of the amendments limits the number of officials who can issue orders for the removal of "unlawful information". Another key change is that authorities must "clearly specify the legal basis and statutory provision" and the "unlawful act" while issuing such directives. This comes a month after the Karnataka High Court rejected a petition by X Corp, challenging the authority of government officials to issue information blocking orders. "Social media needs to be regulated, and its regulation is a must, more so in cases of offences against women, in particular, failing which the right to dignity, as ordained in the Constitution of a citizen gets railroad," the court said in its order.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA: RAJASTHAN BUREAUCRAT, FUEL PUMP STAFF TRADE SLAPS

Diary Times Desk : Three petrol pump employees have been arrested in Rajasthan's Bhilwara after a video showing physical altercation with a Rajasthan Administrative Service (RAS) officer was caught on CCTV, the police said. The incident occurred on Tuesday when Chhotu Lal Sharma, the sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) of Pratapgarh, got into a heated argument with staff at a CNG and petrol station in Jaswantpura area reportedly over giving him priority over the queue of vehicles. According to police, Sharma insisted that his car be refuelled first, claiming he had arrived earlier. When a staffer attempted to intervene, the SDM allegedly slapped him - prompting the employee to retaliate in kind.

Soon after the video went viral, social media users started posting screenshots of what they claim is a police complaint filed by Sharma's wife, Deepika Vyas. According to the screenshots of the complaints, Vyas accused the petrol pump staff of harassment and inappropriate behaviour. She claimed one of the employees winked at her and made an obscene remark, which allegedly triggered the altercation.

The sarcastic commentary continued, "When the video went viral, the SDM's wife said the staff winked at her - there's no CCTV proof, but she's the SDM's wife, so it must be true."

MONTH LEFT FOR CHIEF JUSTICE BR GAVAI'S RETIREMENT, PROCESS BEGINS TO APPOINT SUCCESSOR



Diary Times Desk : The government on Thursday initiated the process to appoint the next chief justice of India as incumbent B R Gavai demits office on November 23, sources said.

The letter asking Justice Gavai to name his successor is set to be delivered either this evening or on Friday, people aware of the procedure to appoint Supreme Court and high court judges told PTI.

According to the memorandum of procedure, a set of documents which guide the appointment, transfer and elevation of SC and HC judges states that appointment to the office of the Chief Justice of India should be of the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court considered fit to hold the office.

The Union law minister would, "at the appropriate time", seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of his successor.

WILL POWER BANKS BE BANNED ON INDIAN FLIGHTS? STRICTER RULES BEING DISCUSSED

Diary Times Desk : The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is considering a potential nationwide ban or stricter regulations on the use of power banks aboard aircraft, following a recent in-flight fire incident aboard an IndiGo flight in Delhi this week.

The move comes amid growing safety concerns over lithium battery-powered devices after a passenger's power bank reportedly caught fire while an IndiGo flight to Dimapur was taxiing for departure from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Sunday. No one was injured, and the fire was quickly extinguished by the cabin crew.

The DGCA has initiated a comprehensive review of how power banks are handled on flights, both by passengers and airlines. The review could lead to a ban on in-flight use, mandatory restrictions on power capacity, or even prohibiting carriage altogether if risks cannot be effectively mitigated.

NATIONWIDE SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION PHASE I SCHEDULE TO BE OUT THIS MONTH: SOURCES

Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission of India (ECI) is preparing to carry out a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls throughout the country in phases. According to ECI sources, they will likely announce the schedule for the first phase of the nationwide SIR this month. The process is set to start in November. The cut-off date for the SIR is November 1.

The sources stated that after the two-day Conference of Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) on nationwide SIR readiness, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Dr Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Dr Vivek Joshi will finalise and announce the schedule, likely on Monday.

The conference began at the India International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Management (IIIDEM) in New Delhi today. It was attended by the CEOs from all states and Union Territories (UT). The Commission told officials to complete their preparations for the upcoming SIR and reviewed the progress made on earlier instructions to match current electors with those from the previous revision.

An ECI official said, "In Bihar, the SIR process took nearly four months from June 24 to September 30. However, the Commission is now planning to shorten this time frame." To simplify the process.



COW VIGILANTE ALLEGEDLY
SHOT IN HYDERABAD, BJP
LEADERS CONDEMN
ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : A cow vigilante, Sonu, was allegedly shot by a cow smuggling mafia in the Ghatkesar area of Hyderabad on Wednesday. Sonu, who's been dedicated to protecting cows for 5-6 years, is currently battling for his life in the hospital with a bullet injury. Speaking with ANI, his mother, hailing from the Valmiki community, vowed to sacrifice more sons for the cause, demanding the government's arrest of the perpetrators. "My son is battling for his life. I will sacrifice 10 more sons for the cow vigilante. He called me up and said that he is in Ghatkesar and has been shot. He was brought to the hospital here...It has been 5-6 years since he has been doing this...I demand that the Govt arrest the perpetrator..." Sonu's mother told ANI.

IN KARNATAKA 'VOTE
CHORI' ROW, A DATA
TEAM'S POSSIBLE DELETION

ROLE: SOURCES
Diary Times Desk : In mid-September Congress MP Rahul Gandhi thundered a warning – with slick PowerPoint presentations to back him up – about mass deletion of voters before the Karnataka Assembly election in 2023 and last year's general election.

The Election Commission and Bharatiya Janata Party – accused of 'collusion to commit voter fraud – junked the claim, and blamed the Congress for "baseless" allegations.

Fast-forward nine weeks and police sources told NDTV of a possible break in the case. Sources said it appears a data entry team could have been paid money – a few lakh rupees in total – to delete a certain number of voters from the roll. At least six people were involved.

Sources told news agency PTI Rs 80 was paid for every successfully deleted voter, and that there were requests to delete nearly 7,000 voters from the rolls before the 2023 state election.

A senior police official told PTI 'attempts were made in Aland to delete votes. We questioned about 30 people and, of them, five or six are strong suspects. They can be arrested.'

All six were associated with the data centre and made VoIP, or voice over internet protocol, calls to delete voters. Raids on their homes and linked premises led to electronic devices being seized.

FROM 2020 TO 2025: MUKESH SAHANI'S 25-
SEAT, DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER DEMANDS



Diary Times Desk : Five years ago, Mukesh Sahani jumped from the Mahagathbandhan – a week before the first phase of voting for the Bihar election – to ally with the BJP and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United.

A Bollywood technician-turned-politician, Sahani declared himself 'betrayed' after his Vikassheel Insaan Party was 'sidelined'. He wanted 25 seats, he said, and the post of Deputy Chief Minister. The VIP was, instead, told it would be adjusted within the 144 set aside for Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal.

A furious Sahani walked out of the opposition camp, taking with him the sizeable support he commands from the Mallah community, and walked into the BJP's waiting arms.

Eventually he got neither, even if he did wind up on the winning side of that particular election.

COURTS MORAL CONSCIENCE OF
CONSTITUTION, PROTECTS
DEMOCRACY: CHIEF JUSTICE

Diary Times Desk : Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai on Thursday said that courts play a far greater role than simply adjudicating disputes, describing the judiciary as a "moral conscience of the Constitution" responsible for safeguarding democracy, protecting fundamental rights, and ensuring accountability of power. Delivering a lecture on "Courts and Constitutional Governance" during the Fifth Wisdom for Future Talk Series hosted by the JSW School of Law at the Royal Institute of Management (RIM), CJI Gavai reflected deeply on India's constitutional evolution and its resonance with Bhutan's constitutional text. "Courts are not merely adjudicatory bodies that resolve disputes between parties," he said, adding that "they are vital organs of constitutional governance that safeguard the rule of law, protect fundamental rights, and ensure that every exercise of power remains accountable to constitutional principles."

TEMPLE EX-OFFICIAL DETAINED AS PROBE CONTINUES IN
SABARIMALA GOLD THEFT CASE

Diary Times Desk : The former administrative officer of the Sabarimala temple was detained by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in connection with the misappropriation of gold plating from Lord Ayyappa's sacred shrine. Murari Babu, detained last night, was taken into custody by the SIT and brought to Thiruvananthapuram early Thursday morning.

He is expected to be jointly questioned alongside Unnikrishnan Potti, another key figure who had been entrusted with the temple's gold-plating work in 2019 and is now under arrest.

According to investigators, Babu allegedly manipulated temple records by registering gold items as copper, a substitution that concealed the disappearance of precious material from the temple's inventory.

14 KIDS LOSE EYESIGHT IN
MADHYA PRADESH PLAYING
WITH 'CARBIDE GUN' ON
DIWALI

Diary Times Desk : Every Diwali brings a new trend in firecrackers, from chakris to rockets to sparklers, but this year's craze has turned deadly. The so-called "carbide gun" or "desi firecracker gun," which children are calling the latest Diwali must-have, has emerged as a nightmare for parents and doctors. In just three days, more than 122 children across Madhya Pradesh have been admitted to hospitals with severe eye injuries, while 14 have lost their eyesight. The worst-hit district is Vidisha, where local markets openly sold these crude "carbide guns" despite a government ban issued on October 18. The makeshift devices, priced between Rs 150 and Rs 200, are being made and sold like toys, but they explode like bombs. Seventeen-year-old Neha, now recovering at Hamidia Hospital, said tearfully, "We bought a homemade carbide gun. When it exploded, one of my eyes burned completely. I can't see anything."

DONALD TRUMP WINS. INDIA'S OIL
GIANTS WILL BE FORCED OFF RUSSIAN
CRUDE BY THREAT OF FINANCIAL
SANCTIONS

Diary Times Desk : India's top oil companies will start cutting back on purchases of Russian crude oil in the very near future after the US imposed sanctions on two top Russian oil giants Rosneft and Lukoil. The news about the US sanctions sent global oil prices shooting up in the last two days by \$3 – or 5 per cent – to a peak of \$66.02.

"The US has given companies time till November 21 to wind down their transactions with the Russian oil producers – according to the release on sanctions," a Reliance spokesman told The Telegraph Online.

The company told London's Financial Times earlier that it would adjust purchases based on advice given by the Indian government. "Recalibration of Russian oil imports is ongoing and Reliance will be fully aligned to Government of India guidelines," the company said.





US SANCTIONS RUSSIA'S TWO
LARGEST OIL COMPANIES,
PROMPTING OIL PRICE RISE AND
INDIA JITTERS

Diary Times Desk :

US President Donald Trump hit Russia's two biggest oil companies with sanctions in his latest sharp policy shift on Moscow's war in Ukraine, prompting global oil prices to rise by 3% on Thursday and India to consider cutting Russian imports. The sanctions, unveiled by the US Treasury, target oil companies Rosneft and Lukoil, and mark a dramatic U-turn by Trump, who said only last week that he and Russian President Vladimir Putin would hold a summit in Budapest to try to end the war in Ukraine.

But in his latest turnaround on the conflict, Trump said on Wednesday the planned summit was off because he did not believe it would achieve the outcome he wanted and complained that his many "good conversations" with Putin did not "go anywhere."

"We cancelled the meeting with President Putin — it just didn't feel right to me," Trump told reporters at the White House. "It didn't feel like we were going to get to the place we have to get. So I cancelled it, but we'll do it in the future."

US SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN FIRMS
TO HIT RELIANCE; PSUS LIKELY TO
KEEP BUYING RUSSIAN OIL VIA
TRADERS

Diary Times Desk : US sanctions against two of Russia's largest oil companies are expected to impact Reliance Industries' crude imports from Russia, while state-run refiners may continue purchases through intermediary traders for now.

Industry sources said public-sector units are assessing compliance risks but are unlikely to halt Russian crude flows immediately as they buy almost all of their needs from traders, mostly European (who are out of the sanctions net).

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd - India's largest buyer of Russian crude, accounting for roughly half of the country's 1.7 million barrels per day of imports from Moscow - may however have to recalibrate its imports as it buys crude oil directly from Russia's Rosneft, they said.

Reliance had in December 2024 signed a term deal with Russia's Rosneft - now sanctioned - to import as much as 500,000 barrels per day of Russian oil for 25 years. It also buys oil from intermediaries.

KING CHARLES III MAKES HISTORY AS FIRST UK MONARCH TO PRAY WITH
POPE AT VATICAN

Diary Times Desk : King Charles III on Thursday joined Pope Leo XIV for prayers at the Sistine Chapel during a visit to Vatican City, making history as the first UK monarch to participate in a Catholic Church service since King Henry VIII broke away from papal authority in the 16th century. The 76-year-old monarch is on a two-day state visit to the Holy See, as the central governing body of the Vatican-based Roman Catholic Church in Italy is known, with wife Queen Camilla. The special service commemorates the Catholic Church's jubilee year and is designed to boost ties between the Vatican and the Anglican Church, of which the British monarch is the Supreme Governor. "Their Majesties will visit the Holy See to celebrate the 2025 Papal Jubilee and the warm ecumenical relationship between the Church of England, of which His Majesty is Supreme Governor, and the Roman Catholic Church.

INSIDE THE CAPITOL HILL IMPLOSION OF
PAUL INGRASSIA



Diary Times Desk : Senate Republicans spent months quietly raising the alarm with the White House about Paul Ingrassia's nomination to lead the Office of Special Counsel before he withdrew from consideration this week.

Members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, which was vetting President Donald Trump's pick, were initially on edge this summer about his comments on social media and perceived lack of qualifications, according to interviews with GOP members of the panel.

"It's been ongoing for a while," Senate Majority Leader John Thune said in an interview Wednesday. "The members on the committee who have met with him and some of the stuff they had come up with during the vetting process, I think, created some — he had challenges."

'IRELAND IS FULL' —WHY A LARGELY
PEACEFUL, MODERATE COUNTRY IS
ERUPTING OVER IMMIGRANTS

Diary Times Desk : The alleged sexual assault of a 10-year-old girl by an asylum seeker has taken Ireland by storm. An unprecedented anti-migrant protest of around 2,000 people outside a Dublin hotel housing asylum seekers turned violent, with some attacking police. Ireland, known for its peaceful, friendly image, witnessed the police using water cannon on people for the first time in the country's history. Why is a moderate country now chanting the slogan "Ireland is full"?

The riots started with the gathering of anti-migrant protesters launching an attack on the police Tuesday, injuring three officers. A police van was set on fire and officers were pelted with bricks, fireworks and glass bottles. A helicopter circling the area was targeted with a laser. The police have arrested 24 protesters, and are scanning CCTV and body cam footage to identify more attackers.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN
ARRESTED IN SINGAPORE
FOR BURSTING
FIRECRACKERS

Diary Times Desk : A 39-year-old Indian-origin man was charged on Thursday for lighting fireworks in Singapore as part of Diwali celebrations, despite a ban on fireworks by the city-state, local media reported.

Dilip Kumar Nirmal Kumar allegedly lit up fireworks along the open field of Carlisle Road last week, committing an offence under the Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Act 2021, Channel News Asia reported.

The case came to notice after a video clip of the fireworks was posted online.

The police confirmed at the time that a report had been lodged and investigations were underway, according to the report.

Dilip, who appeared in court on Thursday via video link -- a process for those under custody -- will reappear in court on November 20.

RUSSIA THREATENS 'PAINFUL
RESPONSE' IF EU TAKES ITS
FROZEN ASSETS

Diary Times Desk : Russia said on Thursday it will deliver a "painful response" to any move by the European Union (EU) to seize its frozen assets.

The warning came as EU leaders met in Brussels to discuss a plan to use the assets as the basis for a 140 billion euro (\$163 billion) "reparations loan" to Ukraine.

"Any actions with Russian assets without Russia's consent are null and void from the standpoint of international and contract law. There is no legal way to take someone else's funds without hurting the pockets and prestige of those who expropriate them," Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said.

"Any confiscatory initiatives from Brussels will inevitably result in a painful response. We will act in full compliance with the principle of reciprocity in international relations, based on our own interests and the need to compensate for the damage caused to Russia."

Under the EU plan, the Russian assets would not be confiscated, as Russia would retain its claim on the money held in Belgian securities depository Euroclear. But Zakharova said the scheme showed that Europe was "no longer a safe haven for financial assets".





UN SECRETARY-GENERAL GUTERRES LAUNCHES SEVILLA FORUM TO TACKLE DEBT CRISIS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Diary Times Desk : UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Wednesday highlighted debt as a major barrier to development for countries worldwide while launching the Sevilla Forum on Debt. "Developing countries face a serious barrier to progress: debt. Borrowing should work for -- not against -- them. No country should have to choose between servicing its debt or serving its people. The Sevilla Forum on Debt will help deliver financial justice for all," Guterres said in a post on X. Addressing the media at the launch of the Forum, he said the event marked "a critical step in bringing to life the Sevilla Commitment and the Sevilla Platform for Action, both announced at June's Fourth International Financing for Development Conference." He noted that the Conference and its outcomes highlighted a key truth: development is not an abstraction. Development is about families getting enough to eat, children gaining an education, putting health care within reach of all people, ensuring clean water and sanitation, and creating jobs and opportunities for citizens.

MAN ACCUSED OF STEALING \$50K FROM NY STATE WHILE WORKING TWO JOBS

Diary Times Desk : 39-year-old Mehul Goswami of Latham, NY, is accused of working a second job in the town of Malta while on the clock and working remotely for the New York State Office of Information Technology Services, reportedly stealing over \$50,000 from NY state. The arrest was the result of a joint effort between the Sheriff's Office and the New York State Inspector General's Office. Sheriff Michael H. Zurlo said, "We truly value the relationships we have with our law enforcement partners. This is a perfect example of the power of collaboration and we look forward to this case's successful resolution in court."

VIRAL 'SIX-SEVEN' MEME DECODED: WHAT IT MEANS AND WHY PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT IT

Diary Times Desk : A new meme has taken teenagers, and especially teenage boys by storm recently and it has everything to do with the numbers six and seven. Teenagers on social media have taken to spamming the number "67" in comments sections of posts or in the chat boxes of streamers. It has also spilled over to real life where they have begun randomly yelling out "six seven" in classes or homes to the complete befuddlement of parents and teachers. A host of concerned adults are trying to pin point the origins of the meme so that they can connect better with their teenagers but are left confused after trying to understand the source. So let's break it down for all the guardians who are worried about this "internet brain rot".

CHINA NAMES NEW SECOND HIGHEST-RANKING GENERAL AFTER MILITARY PURGE

Diary Times Desk : The Chinese Communist Party has named a veteran who has overseen anti-corruption efforts in the military to be the country's second highest ranking general, just days after nine generals were expelled in a major purge.

The appointment of Zhang Shengmin as second-ranked vice chairman of the Central Military Commission was announced at the end of a four-day Central Committee meeting. Zhang becomes the third highest official in the country's top military body, after the first-ranked vice chairman and President Xi Jinping. The nine expelled generals were suspected of serious financial crimes, China's defence ministry said last week. However, analysts said it could also be seen as a political purge.



'FACE US IF YOU'RE A MAN': PAKISTANI TALIBAN'S OPEN THREAT TO ASIM MUNIR

Diary Times Desk : A string of videos released by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has put Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, in a spot. The videos feature a top TTP commander threatening Munir, claiming that the Pakistani army should avoid sending soldiers to get killed and instead, top officers should lead themselves to the battlefield. The videos include battlefield footage of an October 8 ambush in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Kurram, in which the TTP claims 22 Pakistani soldiers were killed and shows captured ammunition and vehicles. Pakistan's official accounts have so far recorded fewer casualties: the army acknowledged 11 soldiers killed in the attack. In one clip, a senior TTP figure identified by Pakistani officials as Commander Kazim appears on camera and says, "Face us if you are a man." In the same video, Kazim then goes on to say, "Fight us if you have had your mother's milk." On October 21, Pakistani authorities announced a reward of 10 crore Pakistani rupees (PKR) for information leading to the capture of Kazim.

SPY WHO MARRIED A TECHIE: INSIDE THE RISE OF 'SEX WARFARE' IN SILICON VALLEY

Diary Times Desk : He met her at a conference. She seemed brilliant, charming, and genuinely interested in his work. Years later, he realised she was part of a carefully orchestrated intelligence operation, designed to extract secrets from America's tech frontier. This is the reality of espionage in Silicon Valley today.

Chinese and Russian operatives are reportedly using attractive women to infiltrate tech companies, seduce employees, and steal trade secrets. They sometimes marry their targets and have children to maintain long-term access. Named "sex warfare" by intelligence experts, this reportedly poses a growing threat to US technological dominance.

James Mulvenon, chief intelligence officer of Pamir Consulting, which advises US companies investing in China, has witnessed the surge firsthand. "I'm getting an enormous number of very sophisticated LinkedIn requests from the same type of attractive young Chinese woman," he told The Times. "It really seems to have ramped up recently." Sex-based espionage is only one part of the threat. Experts say China is hosting startup competitions on US soil to extract business plans, while Russia and China are using ordinary citizens, investors, academics.



TRUMP SAYS HE CANCELED PUTIN SUMMIT DUE TO STALLED NEGOTIATIONS

Diary Times Desk : U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he canceled a planned summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, citing a lack of progress in diplomatic efforts and a sense that the timing was off. "We canceled the meeting with President Putin — it just didn't feel right to me," Trump told reporters at the White House. "It didn't feel like we were going to get to the place we have to get. So I canceled it, but we'll do it in the future." Trump also expressed frustration with the stalled negotiations. "In terms of honesty, the only thing I can say is, every time I speak with Vladimir, I have good conversations, and then they don't go anywhere. They just don't go anywhere," he said. The summit cancellation came as the White House unveiled new sanctions targeting Russian oil exports, part of a broader effort to pressure Moscow over its continued military operations in Ukraine. Trump said he hoped the measures would be temporary.



CHINA'S RULING PARTY CONSOLIDATES XI'S 'CORE' LEADERSHIP, BACKS NEW 5-YEAR PLAN, MILITARY PURGE

Diary Times Desk : China's ruling Communist Party on Thursday reaffirmed the "core" leadership of President Xi Jinping as the head of the party and the powerful military, while backing a major purge of top military officials and endorsing a new 5-year plan for a more resilient domestic market. The announcement came after the Chinese Communist Party's 370-member-strong key body, called the plenum, met from Monday to Thursday. It called on the party and country to unite behind Xi as it ended its four-day meeting. The 72-year-old leader is in his unprecedented third term in power, becoming the only Chinese leader after party founder Mao Zedong to do so. The meeting also endorsed a new 5-year plan to build a more resilient domestic market and achieve greater self-reliance to ward off the impact of US President Donald Trump's tariff war and resultant global trade tensions.

TRUMP TO MEET CHINA'S XI IN SOUTH KOREA, CANCELS MEETING WITH RUSSIA'S PUTIN

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump on Wednesday (local time) announced his upcoming diplomatic trip to Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan, highlighting a significant meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea. Trump also revealed that he cancelled a planned summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin, citing a lack of progress in diplomatic efforts. "It didn't feel right to me," Trump said, adding that he didn't want a "wasted meeting."

"Next week, we'll be going to Malaysia, South Korea, and Japan. In South Korea, I'll be meeting with President Xi of China. We'll have a pretty long meeting scheduled. We can work out a lot of our questions and our doubts and our tremendous assets together... We cancelled the meeting with President Putin. It didn't feel right to me.

ISRAEL MUST ALLOW UN RELIEF AGENCY TO SUPPLY AID TO GAZA: TOP UN COURT

Diary Times Desk : The International Court of Justice said on Wednesday that Israel must allow the UN aid agency in Gaza, known as UNRWA, to provide humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian territory. The Hague-based court was asked late last year by the UN General Assembly to determine Israel's legal obligations after the country passed laws effectively banning the agency, the main provider of aid to Gaza, from operating there. Israel "is under the obligation to agree to and facilitate relief schemes provided by the United Nations and its entities, including UNRWA," ICJ President Yuji Iwasawa said. Israel has not allowed UNRWA to bring in its supplies since March. But the agency continues to operate in Gaza, running health centres, mobile medical teams, sanitation services and school classes for children. It says it has 6,000 trucks of supplies waiting to get in. The commissioner-general of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, said in a message on X that he welcomed "the unambiguous ruling by the International Court of Justice today." "With huge amounts of food & other life-saving supplies on standby in Egypt & Jordan, UNRWA has the resources & expertise to immediately scale up the humanitarian response in Gaza & help alleviate the suffering of the civilian population," he added.



HORRIFIC CRASH IN

VENEZUELA: PLANE GOES UP, THEN EXPLODES IN SECONDS

Diary Times Desk : A light aircraft crashed during take-off at Venezuela's Paramillo Airport in the state of Tachira on Wednesday, killing two crew members. The twin-engine Piper PA-31TI (registration YV 1443) failed to climb as it attempted departure around 09:52 a.m. local time, stalled shortly after liftoff and crashed into the runway, bursting into flames.

The National Institute of Civil Aeronautics (INAC) confirmed that emergency and firefighting teams responded immediately and activated the Junta Investigadora de Accidentes de Aviacion Civil (JIAAC) to probe the incident in line with Venezuelan regulation.

Initial footage shows the aircraft briefly gaining altitude before losing control and crashing. Preliminary sources suggest a possible tyre burst during take-off, though investigations are still underway.

US PREPARES NEW RUSSIA SANCTIONS AS UKRAINE WAR INTENSIFIES

Diary Times Desk : US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Wednesday the Trump administration is getting ready to announce increased sanctions on Russia as US-led efforts to end the war flounder and Ukraine's president seeks more foreign military help.

"We are going to announce either after the close this afternoon or first thing tomorrow morning a substantial pickup in Russia sanctions," Bessent told reporters at the White House. Bessent made his comments as NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte was in Washington for talks, and was preparing to meet President Donald Trump at the White House.

Bessent did not provide details on the nature of the sanctions. He spoke after Russian drones and missiles blasted sites across Ukraine, killing at least six people, including a woman and her two young daughters. The attack came in waves throughout the night and targeted at least eight Ukrainian cities, as well as a village in the region of the capital, Kyiv, where a strike set fire to a house in which the mother and her 6-month-old and 12-year-old daughters were staying, regional head Mykola Kalashnyk said.

Russian drones also hit a kindergarten in Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, later Wednesday when children were in the building, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said. One person was killed and six were hurt, but no children were physically harmed, he said.



ILLEGAL INDIAN IMMIGRANT TRUCK DRIVER, HIGH ON DRUGS, KILLS 3 IN US CRASH



Diary Times Desk : A 21-year-old Indian man-- an illegal immigrant in the US-- has been accused of causing a fiery semi-truck crash that killed three people in Southern California. The man, identified as Jashanpreet Singh, was arrested on charges of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated after smashing his big rig into slow-moving traffic on a San Bernardino County freeway, according to US news reports.

Singh reportedly crossed the southern US border in 2022. He had his first encounter with Border Patrol agents in California's El Centro Sector in March 2022, but was released into the interior of the country by the Biden administration under the "alternatives to detention" policy-- where illegal immigrants were released pending hearings.

The crash was caught on the dashcam of Singh's Freightliner tractor-trailer combination that slammed into the SUV, killing at least three people and injuring several others.

US KILLS THREE IN SECOND STRIKE ON ALLEGED DRUG BOATS IN THE PACIFIC

Diary Times Desk : US forces have struck a second vessel alleged to be carrying drugs in the Pacific Ocean, amid an escalating US campaign against seaborne drug smuggling.

Three people were killed and no US forces were harmed in the strike on Wednesday, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said. It came hours after the US struck another boat in the Pacific, killing two people. Colombia's government has denounced the US for carrying out strikes on vessels close to its coast, saying the American action was "like applying the death penalty in a territory that is not yours".

Wednesday's strikes were the first in Pacific waters, as most previous attacks were in the Caribbean.

"These strikes will continue, day after day. These are not simply drug runners - these are narco-terrorists bringing death and destruction to our cities," Hegseth posted on X.

The post was accompanied by a video that appears to show a boat catching fire after being struck by a US bomb.

ANDHRA MINE TO LOUVRE: BLOODY HISTORY OF \$60 MILLION DIAMOND SPARED IN HEIST

Diary Times Desk : Thieves entered Paris' Louvre earlier this week and left within minutes with priceless Napoleonic jewels, leaving behind a \$60 million diamond that is the largest of its kind in Europe and was found in India hundreds of years ago.

About The Regent Diamond

The cushion cut diamond is barely tinted blue-green in colour and weighs 140.6 carats. In comparison, the famed Koh-i-noor diamond weighs 105.6 carats.

The Regent diamond was part of the French royal collection before it was awarded to the Louvre in 1887.

The India Connection

The stone was discovered in 1698 in the mines of Golconda and had weighed 426 carats then.

VANCE AND RUBIO CRITICISE ISRAELI PARLIAMENT'S VOTE ON WEST BANK ANNEXATION

Diary Times Desk : US Vice-President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio have criticised a move by Israel's parliament towards annexation of the occupied West Bank.

On Wednesday, far-right politicians in the Knesset took the symbolic step of giving preliminary approval to a bill applying Israeli law in the territory, which the Palestinians claim as part of a hoped-for independent state.

At the end of a trip to Israel, Vance branded it a "very stupid political stunt". Rubio warned before flying to Israel that annexation would threaten President Donald Trump's plan to end the conflict in Gaza.

Israel's prime minister called the move a "deliberate political provocation by the opposition to sow discord".

A statement from Benjamin Netanyahu's office stressed that his right-wing Likud party and its ultra-Orthodox coalition partners did not vote for the bill, "except for one disgruntled Likud member who was recently fired from the chairmanship of a Knesset committee".

"Without Likud support these bills are unlikely to go anywhere," it added.

WHAT US SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN OIL MEAN FOR INDIA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has slapped "tremendous" new sanctions on Russia's two largest oil companies in a bid to pressure his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, into ending the war in Ukraine. The US sanctions target Rosneft and Lukoil, Russia's two largest oil companies that help fund the Kremlin's "war machine", according to US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

"Given President Putin's refusal to end this senseless war, Treasury is sanctioning Russia's two largest oil companies that fund the Kremlin's war machine," Bessent said in a statement.

US sanctions came a week after Britain sanctioned Rosneft and Lukoil. Separately, EU countries approved a 19th package of sanctions against Russia for the war that includes a ban on imports of Russian LNG. The US has also called on Japan, also a major buyer of Russian LNG, to halt its energy imports from Russia.

The US said it was prepared to take further action against Russia as it called on Moscow to agree immediately to a ceasefire in its war in Ukraine. US President Donald Trump has so far refrained from imposing sanctions on Russia over the war, relying instead on trade measures.

JAPAN'S FIRST WOMAN PM SANAЕ TAKAICHI PLAYS HEAVY METAL DRUMS TO RELIEVE STRESS

Diary Times Desk : EU leaders on Thursday look set to give a preliminary green light to a mammoth new "reparations loan" for Ukraine funded by Russian frozen assets.

The move is seen as crucial to helping keep Kyiv in the fight against Moscow and making the Kremlin pay -- but it is fraught with legal and political perils.

To get around them, the European Commission has floated a complex scheme it says could hand 140 billion euros (\$162 billion) to Kyiv over the next few years.

Here's what is at stake and how it could work:

The EU froze some 200 billion euros of Russian central bank assets after Moscow's tanks rolled into Ukraine in 2022.

The vast majority of those funds are held in the international deposit organisation Euroclear, based in Belgium.

G7 countries have already used the interest of the frozen assets to fund a \$50-billion loan for Ukraine.

But as Russia's war drags on through a fourth year -- and support dries up from Washington -- Kyiv's backers are now looking to go further to help plug its budget.

While more hawkish countries in the EU have called for seizing the Russian assets outright, that is a red line for many others.

To get around that, the European Commission, the EU's executive, has floated a financial switcheroo that it insists does not touch the Russian sovereign assets.





ELON MUSK SAID HE
NEEDS \$1 TRILLION TO
STOP 'CORPORATE
TERRORISTS' FROM
WRESTING CONTROL OF
TESLA

Diary Times Desk :

Elon Musk says he needs to build his stake in Tesla so much that he could become the world's first trillionaire. But this week he said his aim wasn't to increase his planet-leading wealth. Instead, Musk said the biggest pay package in history was necessary to protect his company.

"It's not like I'm going to go spend the money," Musk said on a call with investors Wednesday. "There needs to be enough voting control to give (me) a strong influence – but not so much that I can't be fired if I go insane."

Musk said he needs to protect Tesla from two influential (but hardly all-powerful) research firms that advise shareholders how to vote – ISS and Glass Lewis, which he described as "corporate terrorists."

"I just don't feel comfortable building a robot army here and ... then being ousted because of some asinine recommendations from ISS and Glass Lewis, who have no freaking clue," he said.

TRUMP'S ARGENTINA
BEEF DEAL ANGERS
AMERICA'S
STRUGGLING FARMERS:
'YOU'RE SELLING US
OUT'

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump said this week he "loved" America's cattle ranchers. But those farmers, who overwhelmingly supported the president in the 2024 election, say they aren't feeling the love right now.

Trump is facing criticism from many US cattle ranchers after signaling support for increasing low-tariff beef imports from Argentina to ease record beef prices in the United States. The move comes just weeks after US soybean farmers blasted a separate deal with Argentina that they fear will give South American producers a competitive edge in that market. Argentina currently accounts for just over 2% of US beef imports. Under existing rules, it can ship up to 20,000 metric tons a year at a lower tariff rate, with anything above that subject to a 26.4% tariff, according to the US Department of Agriculture.

MICROSOFT AI CEO: WE'RE MAKING AN AI THAT YOU CAN TRUST
YOUR KIDS TO USE

Diary Times Desk : Popular artificial intelligence chatbots like ChatGPT and Meta AI are increasingly blurring the line between real-world and digital relationships by allowing romantic and sometimes sexual conversations – while scrambling to make sure children aren't accessing that adult content.

But Microsoft wants no part of that, the company's AI CEO Mustafa Suleyman told CNN.

"We are creating AIs that are emotionally intelligent, that are kind and supportive, but that are fundamentally trustworthy," Suleyman said. "I want to make an AI that you trust your kids to use, and that means it needs to be boundaried and safe."

Microsoft is locked in a race with tech giants like OpenAI, Meta and Google to make its Copilot the AI tool of choice in what Silicon Valley believes will be the next big computing wave. Copilot now has 100 million monthly active users across Microsoft's platforms, the company said in its most recent earnings call. That's well below competitors like OpenAI, whose ChatGPT has 800 million monthly active users.



MORTGAGE RATES FALL TO LOWEST LEVEL OF 2025

Diary Times Desk : Americans frustrated by high home borrowing rates may have gotten some welcome news this week. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate dropped to 6.19% for the week ending October 23, down from 6.27% last week, according to Freddie Mac data released Thursday.

After years of sluggish activity, sidelined homebuyers may finally be ready to jump back in, with mortgage rates now at their lowest level in more than a year and home prices softening across many major metro areas.

"At the start of 2025, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage surpassed 7%, while today it hovers nearly a full percentage point lower," Sam Khater, Freddie Mac's chief economist, said in a statement.

With the government shutdown halting most economic data, the sharp one-week drop in mortgage rates stands out as one of the few indicators still being released. Freddie Mac, despite being under federal conservatorship, isn't affected by the shutdown and continues to publish its weekly survey.



'THEIR HISTORY IS JUST ERASED': GOOGLE DROPS A KEY PROGRAM FOR
BOOSTING WOMEN IN TECH

Diary Times Desk : The email that said the career resource program for women would no longer be part of Google was terse and followed months of eroding support. But the deletion of years of Women Techmakers' work came as a significant shock to its members.

"Everything that I ever hosted and facilitated for Women Techmakers is gone. And there are just as many ambassadors who were in the community that put in so much effort to be part of this, (and) their history just erased," Sherry Yang, an engineering manager in Canada and an ambassador for the group, told CNN.

Google earlier this month offloaded the key career resource program for supporting women in tech and severed its integration within the company. The decision was communicated to members in a short email with little explanation earlier this month. It left members feeling surprised, upset and sidelined as the company removed years' worth of content and videos they created. The end of Women Techmakers served as another sign the search giant is unwinding its diversity programs as such initiatives face increasing political pressure.





GM WILL INTRODUCE
‘EYES-OFF’ DRIVING IN
2028

Diary Times Desk :

General Motors, the 100-year-old car company that has struggled with its expensive modernization efforts, plans to offer Americans hands-free driving and the freedom to watch a movie on the go.

The company unveiled new “eyes-off” driving technology that will be available starting in 2028, part of a new technology initiative revealed by GM executives in New York Wednesday. The automaker said the initiative includes a conversational AI technology that will be introduced into vehicles next year.

“Imagine you step into your vehicle, you push a button, and it drives you to the office. You catch up on work, send emails, or watch an episode of your favorite show,” said GM CEO Mary Barra. “The car drops you off ... then it goes to get your dry cleaning, take out for dinner, and it comes back in time so you can drive your kids to their soccer game.”

The version of the future imagined and described by Barra is years away, but in three years GM is promising the “eyes-off” driving experience will be available in their Cadillac Escalade IQ SUV.

THE BATTLE FOR THE
FUTURE OF THE
INTERNET IS UNDERWAY

Diary Times Desk :

The tug-of-war over the internet’s future escalated dramatically on Tuesday after OpenAI unveiled a new product that takes direct aim at the heart of Google’s core business: controlling the world’s front door to the internet.

OpenAI this week released ChatGPT Atlas, a desktop web browser infused with the popular AI chatbot. The product is more than just a way to expand ChatGPT, which now has more than 800 million weekly users. It’s an attempt to become the pathway to websites, social media and other online services, giving it a more direct role in everything people do online. Google has dominated that business for two decades. OpenAI is betting it can start to take over.

OpenAI’s ChatGPT Atlas isn’t the first and only AI-driven web browser; AI search company Perplexity launched its Comet browser in July.

A TINY LIGHT IN AN ECONOMIC DATA BLACKOUT IS ABOUT TO SHINE
THROUGH THE SHUTDOWN FOR A BRIEF MOMENT



Diary Times Desk : Nearly two dozen days have passed since a federal agency has published an economic report. The US government’s shutdown has resulted in a blackout of critical data, further clouding an already opaque economic outlook.

That will change – albeit briefly – Friday morning, when the Bureau of Labor Statistics is expected to release the Consumer Price Index report for September.

The September CPI will allow the data-hungry to get a little fix, providing a snapshot of how prices are trending for Americans.

The report is a one-off of sorts: BLS staff were called back into the office this month to allow the government to meet statutory requirements in adjusting Social Security payments for next year. The September CPI is the final piece of data needed for the 2026 cost of living adjustment.

TESLA’S BEST QUARTER OF YEAR ISN’T ENOUGH TO IMPRESS
INVESTORS. BECAUSE THEY KNOW IT WON’T LAST



Diary Times Desk : You’d think after a tumultuous year for Elon Musk’s car company, Wall Street would be cheering Tesla’s record quarterly sales. They’re not.

That’s for two main reasons: First, Tesla’s profit fell from a year ago and missed analysts’ estimates.

Second, Tesla’s sales were largely booming last quarter because customers scrambled to nab electric cars before a US tax credit expired.

Shares of Tesla (TSLA) fell 2% in after-market trading following the report, but ahead of a call for investors scheduled for 5:30 pm ET.

Tesla has a difficult road ahead, and investors know that. The ones still cheering and buying Tesla shares are those who aren’t focused on car sales. Instead, they believe in Musk’s promise of a future based on self-driving cars and robotics.

In fact, neither Musk nor CFO Vaibhav Taneja spent significant time talking about car sales or profits during an hour-long call with investors and analysts on Wednesday.

Instead they spent most of the time talking about the promise of self-driving vehicles, robotaxis and humanoid robots, without much insight on when those thing will contribute to Tesla’s bottom line.

Judging by after-market stock trading, investors were not impressed. Shares were down a bit less than 2% as the call got underway but fell steadily during the first half, hitting a low of down about 5%. While shares climbed back, they were still down more than 3% when the hour concluded.

Tesla sales worldwide fell 13% during the first six months of 2025 compared to a year earlier both due to increased competition, as well as backlash to Musk’s political activity.

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.



HARYANA DGP,
ROHTAK SP ASK POLICE
OFFICIALS TO
CONTRIBUTE TO ASI'S
FAMILY WELFARE FUND

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana DGP and Rohtak SP have requested police officials to contribute funds for providing financial aid to the family of the late ASI Sandeep Lather, who allegedly took his own life on October 14.

"ASI Sandeep Kumar, who was posted in the Cyber Cell, died under unfortunate circumstances on October 14. His family comprises his mother, wife, two daughters, and a son. Two of his children are minors, and all three are studying. The late Sandeep was a sincere and conscientious officer who proved his capability with his remarkable contribution to solving crime cases in the district. He was honoured by the Chief Minister on the 79th Independence Day for his outstanding work," stated the communique sent by the DGP to the IGP, Rohtak Range.

The DGP maintained that the family of the deceased ASI needs financial help and has asked the IGP to inform and motivate police officials in all districts/units to make voluntary contributions. The collected amount will be deposited into Police Welfare Fund of the Rohtak district.

WFI SUSPENDS GRECO
ROMAN WRESTLER
SANJEEV OVER
DOMICILE, IDENTITY
DISCREPANCIES

Diary Times Desk : The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has suspended Greco Roman wrestler Sanjeev after discrepancies were found in his domicile and identity documents, according to a notice issued by the federation on Thursday.

WFI said the documents it had received from Sanjeev showed conflicting information regarding his place of birth and residence between Delhi and Haryana. Sanjeev had competed in senior world championship, held in non-Olympic weight categories, last year. He had lost his opening round in 55kg competition.

According to the notice, a birth certificate for the wrestler was issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), Rohini Zone, in August 2022 – 22 years after his recorded date of birth on November 20, 2000.

'FIGHT BETWEEN HONEST AND CORRUPT': CBI PROBE DEMANDED IN ASI'S DEATH,
IGP'S WIFE NAMED IN FIR

Diary Times Desk : The FIR pertaining to the abetment of suicide, lodged by Santosh, the wife of deceased ASI Sandeep Lather, which was being kept under wraps by the local police authorities, has finally surfaced. Maintaining that it was a fight between honest and corrupt officers, the complainant has sought a CBI investigation into the entire episode.

"It is a fight between honest and corrupt officers. An inquiry into our property and that of the accused would reveal who is honest and who is corrupt. The entire episode should be probed by CBI," she stated.

The deceased IGP Y Puran Kumar's wife, Amneet P Kumar, her brother Aman Ratan, the IGP's gunman Sushil Kumar, IGP office official Sunil, and an unknown person have been named in the FIR. According to police sources, the FIR has been registered under Sections 108 and 3(5) of the BNS.



ENSURE COMPLAINANT ISN'T
HARASSED FOR PURSUING CASE
AGAINST DERA: NGT

Diary Times Desk : After a petitioner alleged that FIRs were being registered against him for pursuing a case against Radha Soami Satsang Beas Dera for tree felling, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the "authorities concerned" to ensure that the "applicant is not harassed on account of filing this OA (original application) before the tribunal."

During a hearing on October 17, petitioner Gaurav Sharma, a resident of Panchkula, submitted that he had appeared before the Joint Committee, set up by NGT, on July 2 in the office of DG Forest, Panchkula, and immediately thereafter, he had received phone calls from different police stations threatening registration of FIRs, and certain FIRs had also been registered.

He further added that he was being pressurised by the authorities to compromise on this matter and his life is in danger. To attend court's proceedings, he had been provided security by Haryana Police.

On Sharma's petition, the NGT had set up a Joint Committee, headed by retired District and Sessions Judge BM Bedi, which had revealed that Radha Soami Dera at Bir Ghaggar village in Panchkula felled forest tree species and removed those from the site.

HARYANA GOVT TO RECOMMEND
CBI PROBE INTO DEATH OF EX-
PUNJAB DGP MUSTAFA'S SON

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana Government is going to recommend the death probe of former Punjab DGP Mohammad Mustafa's son, Aqil Akhtar, to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The officials in the Panchkula Police have confirmed the development. According to sources, one of the reasons for recommending the case was interstate jurisdiction.

Earlier, on October 20, the Haryana Police had booked former Punjab DGP Mohammad Mustafa and his wife, ex-minister Razia Sultana, for allegedly killing their son Aqil Akhtar. Akhtar's wife and sister are also accused in the case.

As per the FIR, registered on the complaint of Malerkotla resident Shamshudeen Chaudhary, the police had invoked Section 103 (1) (for murder) and Section 61 (for criminal conspiracy) of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Chaudhary submitted the complaint on October 17, stating that Akhtar had died under mysterious circumstances and that there was a "simmering discontent between the deceased and his family".

KHATTAR VISITS PURAN KUMAR'S FAMILY

Diary Times Desk : Union Minister and former Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar today visited family of IPS officer Y Puran Kumar, who died by suicide – after alleging caste-based discrimination by certain senior serving and retired officers – on October 7.

According to information, Khattar met Amneet P Kumar, widow of IPS officer, who is a senior IAS officer with Haryana Government, and his two daughters at their Chandigarh residence.

In the note, Y Puran Kumar named nine serving and one retired IPS officers and three retired IAS officers, including Director General of Police (DGP) Shatrueet Kapoor and Narinder Bijarniya, Superintendent of Police. He wrote that their actions had led him to take the extreme step.

Amneet Kumar was in Japan at the time as part of the Haryana government's delegation led by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. She returned on October 8 and lodged a formal complaint with the Chandigarh Police seeking action against all those named in her husband's "final note".

The Chandigarh Police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) under Section 108 IPC (abetment to suicide) and under provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.





The Next Deadly Climate Disaster
Could Wipe Out Glacier-Chasing
Cruise Ships

It was a very early morning in August when an entire mountainside in Alaska's Tracy Arm fjord detached and slid into the deep ocean water beneath it.

The slide created a gargantuan splash – a hyper-local, but massive tsunami that ran up the opposite mountain slope, leveling everything in its path as high as the Empire State Building. It ripped evergreens out of the ground, stripped a nearby island to bare rock and pulverized the glacial ice around it.

The whole episode lasted minutes.

About 15 miles away, a National Geographic cruise ship carrying around 150 passengers and crew started to move backward, pulled by suddenly shifting currents through an eerie fog.

And twenty miles across the fjord's channel, three sea kayakers camping on high ground woke up to ocean water dripping into their tent, their gear strewn across the shore. One kayak was lost, swirling around in an ocean whirlpool.

It would take days for the scale of the split-second devastation to become clear, but experts say it was miraculous that no one was hurt or killed. The National Geographic cruise ship, in particular, was saved by the fact it was positioned behind an S-shaped bend in the fjord that blunted the impact of a wall of water rushing down the channel.

"That probably saved their lives," said Jackie Caplan-Auerbach, a seismologist and professor at Western Washington University, who was in touch with the ship's captain and relayed the tale to CNN.

But scientists who study these types of landslides are anxious it could happen again. Tracy Arm is a popular route for cruise ships packed with ice-chasing tourists eager for a glimpse of Arctic glaciers before they disappear.

"I've looked at the cruise ship schedules," Caplan-Auerbach said. "On any given day, there are often a couple of cruise vessels with quite literally thousands of people aboard."



High above the cold, clear waters of the Gulf of Alaska, the mountains are moving, inching down toward the water line.

All in all, scientists have mapped more than 1,000 instances of what they call "slow-moving landslides" in Alaska. Some are moving literal inches; others more than 10 feet per year.

Some of these mountainsides have dislodged themselves deep in the bedrock, causing the face of a mountain to shear clean off — as has happened at least twice in the last two years. If such a enormous volume of rock, soil and debris falls into a deep body of water, whether a glacial lake or the ocean, the result is a dangerous tsunami. Alaska's foremost expert on these landslides knows why there hasn't been a deadly landslide-turn-tsunami disaster, yet: sheer luck.



Ella Nilsen
All three had one thing in common: the landslide and tsunami happened near the mouth of a retreating glacier. Some scientists, including Higman, think it's the beginning of a worrisome trend.

Museums After Dark

LONDON'S HISTORIC HALLS GET A NEW LEASE ON LIFE

Supper with a samurai has been impossible for a century and a half, but lately the British Museum has been dishing up the next best thing.



Tom Page
London's after-hours events follow in the footsteps of First Saturdays, the granddaddy of alternative programming, which has been running at New York's Brooklyn Museum since 1998.

For a few evenings in September and October, after day visitors had filtered out and the halls grew silent, a quiet ceremony took place in the Japan galleries. Three single tables were arranged opposite display cases, place settings laid out, and bowls of steaming noodles served to a handful of guests.

My companion on the evening of October 9 was an 18th century suit of samurai armor. Beautifully ornate and ramrod straight, the armor cut an imposing figure, remaining stoic, even as I fumbled the pickles and let out a mortifying slurp halfway through. As company goes, the samurai was mercifully non-judgmental, and the meal surprisingly tranquil; a world apart from the chaos of Oxford Street and Soho's restaurants, a stone's throw away. And that was kind of the point. The solo dining experience — free and open to the public to eat — was the brainchild of communications agency Exposure, hired by itsu, a chain of British East-Asian restaurants and groceries, to launch a new range of noodles for one.



She added the events "draw in crowds that otherwise may never have thought to visit... People come for a dance with the dinosaurs and end up talking to space scientists while holding a drink in one hand and a meteorite in the other."

"In Japan, solo dining is celebrated — there's even a word for it, 'ohitorisama,' meaning the joy and freedom of doing things alone," explained Lloyd Abbott, Exposure publicity director. "In the UK, however, eating solo still carries a certain stigma; it's seen as awkward, even a little sad. We saw an opportunity to challenge that."

Itsu got a quirky product launch, and in return the British Museum received payment for use of its space.

The commercial event was at the niche end of London institutions' never-ending mission to attract new visitors and diversify their revenue streams.

All over the capital, places are offering the public unusual experiences and unfettered access. Ever wanted to have a silent disco in the Science Museum?

Take a gong bath at the Natural History Museum? Glamp with the lions at London Zoo? Now you can. At the Natural History Museum — the UK's second most-visited attraction — what started with the sleepover event "Dino Snores for Kids" in 2010 has grown into a comprehensive after-hours program. Evening tours, discos, overnight stays, yoga underneath the skeleton of Hope the blue whale, have blown away the cobwebs from the 144-year-old museum.

The beautiful Alfred Waterhouse-designed building, conceived as a "cathedral to nature," has hosted 250 sleepovers and 80 silent discos to date, and parties for Halloween, New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day get "bigger and better every year," said Hannah Douglass, the museum's visitor events manager. It's even adding a dash of glamour with an upcoming evening featuring Emmy-winning actor Bryan Cranston and the museum's mineralogist Alan Hart, for a talk titled "The Chemistry of 'Breaking Bad.'"

"We couldn't ignore the incredible opportunity to use our unique space and resources to creatively bring the museum's science work to new audiences in an accessible, fun way," said Douglass.

INFA

Tropical Storm Melissa

IT'S A NEW, TROUBLING TENDENCY FOR ATLANTIC STORMS

Tropical Storm Melissa is expected to meander the Caribbean at an agonizingly slow pace in the coming days, even as it's forecast to strengthen into a hurricane, covering as little as 2 miles in an hour. This is slower than an average person's walking speed.



Andrew Freedman
A devastating example of a slow-moving, water-laden storm was Hurricane Harvey in 2017, which produced 60.58 inches of rain in southeastern Texas. This was the highest rainfall total from a tropical cyclone in US history.

Hurricanes are powerful storms, but they require a tug or pull from other weather systems, such as a cold front or a dip in the jet stream, to determine how fast they move and where they go.

When those influences are very weak or absent, however — as is the case with Melissa — a storm can meander for days, dumping torrential amounts of rainfall on anyone unlucky enough to be nearby.

Slow movement and weak upper-level winds can also help a storm like Melissa intensify into a major hurricane — Category 3 or stronger. Right now, the Caribbean Sea has some of the most unusually hot waters of any part of the Atlantic Ocean, and the storm could have the opportunity to tap into that energy.

But now, conditions are expected to be primed for Tropical Storm Melissa to keep at its snail's pace.

"The potential intensity is quite elevated in the Caribbean, compared to the 1979-2023 average for this time of year," said Kerry Emanuel, a meteorologist specializing in tropical cyclones at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. There has not been much storm activity in the Caribbean so far this year due to strong upper-level winds that have inhibited nascent storms from intensifying, he pointed out.

Are hurricanes slowing down?

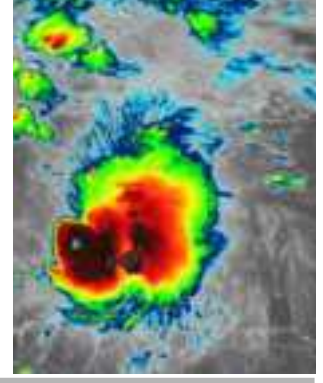
There is evidence that slow-moving tropical storms and hurricanes are occurring more frequently in the Atlantic Basin, particularly near and over land masses, experts say. Studies in the past several years have showed a slow-down in forward speed at landfall. That's a critical change, since a slower-moving storm typically means more flooding rainfall, and potentially more storm surge. Some research has pointed to global warming as a potential cause of this trend, but this is not yet fully established, said meteorologist Kieran Bhatia of the global risk and reinsurance company Guy Carpenter. Some studies, Bhatia said, show tropical storms and hurricanes have slowed down in recent years over the continental United States and near-coastal US regions as well.

However, "these observed changes have not yet been confidently linked" to human-caused climate change, he said. The most recent major report from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found a trend that is not explainable solely by natural variability with "medium" confidence, Bhatia said.

Additional research by other scientists provides further evidence of recent slowdowns in the forward movement of tropical cyclones, while some modeling studies project that future climate change is likely to result in more meandering storms.

But the broader community of meteorologists and climate scientists are not yet fully in agreement.

Regardless of any climate change ties, any tendency to slow down, like the crawling forward speed of Tropical Storm Melissa.





HOCKNEY'S FIRST DOUBLE PORTRAIT IS A MASTERPIECE OF PICTORIAL DRAMA

Diary Times Desk : Amongst David Hockney's rarest and most revered works are his double portraits, which offer audiences a glimpse into the captivating figures of his social universe. Created between 1968-1975, this series of just seven works began with an arresting painting of Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy. Isherwood, one of the most important writers of the 20th Century, is renowned for his 1964 novel *A Single Man*, famously adapted by Tom Ford into a celebrated feature film in 2009, as well as for his 1939 novel *Goodbye to Berlin*, which served as the basis for *Cabaret*. In the painting, Isherwood is seated beside his partner, the artist Don Bachardy, a native Californian 30 years his junior, in their sunlit Santa Monica living room. Suffused with tenderness and tension, it is a masterpiece of human and pictorial drama that captures Hockney at the height of his powers.

Offered during Christie's Fall Marquee Week in November in New York City, Hockney's Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy will be a major highlight of the 20th Century Evening Sale. With its virtuosic composition, rich art historical references and extraordinary psychological depth, it tells an enduring story of intimacy and love, animated by Hockney's genius use of perspective and his close friendship with the painting's subjects. Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy has been included in every one of Hockney's most important retrospectives, including those held at the Whitechapel Gallery (1970), LACMA (1988), Palais des Beaux-Arts (1992), Tate Britain, Centre Pompidou and The Met (2017-2018), and most recently Fondation Louis Vuitton earlier this year.

There are only seven of Hockney's double portraits in existence: four are held in institutional collections while two constitute the artist's world record and second highest price achieved at auction. Christopher Isherwood and Don Bachardy has been held in the same private collection for the last 40 years.

California: a beacon of freedom

Isherwood, a friend of British writers W. H. Auden, Aldous Huxley and Truman Capote, found fame as an author with novels such as *Goodbye to Berlin*, a semi-autobiographical account of his experiences of Weimar Germany. He and Auden had left Europe for New York in January 1939, before Isherwood headed west to Los Angeles, where he joined a distinguished milieu of European exiles. In Hollywood, he would later write *A Single Man*, which followed its protagonist through a day of his existence as he mourned the death of his partner. This book has become one of the keystone texts of romantic literature.

Isherwood, then 48, and Bachardy, then 18, were lovers from Valentine's Day in 1953. 'Don was young and full of life and he was a perfect darling. It was just as simple as that', Isherwood recalled in *The Village Voice* in 1985.



AN HERMÈS HAUT À COURROIES OWNED BY JANE BIRKIN AND SERGE GAINSBOURG: 'EMBLEMATIC OF A PASSIONATE ROMANCE'

Diary Times Desk : The origins of Jane Birkin's namesake handbag are well known: a chance encounter on a flight from Paris to London with Jean-Louis Dumas — the head of Hermès — led to him sketching the ideal holdall for her on the back of an air-sickness bag. Elegant, yet roomy enough for a working mother, a prototype was presented to the actress and singer in 1984, and christened the 'Birkin'.

In reality, though, that's only half the story. Two decades earlier, Jane Birkin was a poster child for Swinging London in the 1960s. Her poker-straight hair, gap-toothed smile and heavy lashes helped define the era's style. So did her trademark wicker baskets, which she would carry on the King's Road and to nightclubs, awkwardly overflowing with makeup, notes, books, shoes, cigarettes and wine bottles.

In 1968, Birkin met Serge Gainsbourg, the louche singer-songwriter with striking features and an unmistakable voice. The following year, they recorded an album of love songs together, initiating one of the 20th century's most famous romances. By the middle of the 1970s, as the couple were flitting back and forth between London and Paris, Gainsbourg had purchased a large, black leather bag from Hermès to use as their luggage. Called the Haut à Courroies, or 'HAC', it had been introduced in 1892, originally designed to carry riding boots and saddles. Across the following years, the couple would be photographed countless times with the bag, Gainsbourg usually holding it while Birkin carried her basket. After they separated in 1980, Birkin kept the bag — until 2019, when she auctioned it to raise funds for the humanitarian organisation Médecins du Monde. In a short film to promote the sale, Birkin explained how she continued to use it each Christmas when travelling between England and France with her children. Her gold Eurostar 'frequent traveller' luggage label is still attached. She also confirmed a long-held suspicion: that 'it was the source of inspiration for my Birkin bag'.

Both bags had been crafted into voluminous trapezoids from panels of buttery-soft black leather. Each one features the now-iconic belt, threaded through a pair of holding fixtures to give the bag the appearance of being tied around the top. They both also have the same signature style of hardware.

Both bags were constructed by hand using a double-needle saddle stitch — a technique that can't be replicated by machine. For Jane's prototype Birkin, Dumas simply shrank the HAC design by around 15 centimetres, leaving enough volume for all of her belongings and allowing it to be swung over her shoulder from a pair of elongated handles.





BARCELONA SUMMER SIGNING EXCITED AHEAD OF HIS FIRST CLASICO – ‘THE BIGGEST MATCH IN THE HISTORY OF FOOTBALL’



Diary Times Desk : Marcus Rashford arrived at Barcelona in the summer as a player who was out of touch, not match-fit and far from his best version.

Confidence from the manager, regular playing time and the right dressing room environment, however, have helped him bloom exceptionally and he is now one of the team's most in-form players. Earlier this week, the Englishman scored a brace in Barcelona's win over Olympiacos and already has four goals to his name in the UEFA Champions League. Needless to say, eyes will be on him for the weekend's Clasico.

Rashford's pre-Clasico interview

Speaking to the media in a recent interview, the star forward expressed that the team were optimistic about El Clasico, and previewed the grand fixture, which he will be a part of for the first time.

"We want to maintain as much positivity as possible. There's no better way for us than to win the match and score lots of goals."

OFFICIAL: BARCELONA YOUNGSTER NAMED UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Diary Times Desk : Following his exceptional display in the 6-1 win over Olympiacos earlier this week, FC Barcelona attacking midfielder Fermin Lopez has been named the UEFA Champions League Player of the Week for Matchday 3.

The 22-year-old La Masia graduate was back in the starting lineup for Barça for the first time since returning from his injury and was the star of the show as the hosts secured a resounding win over the Greek giants.

Fermin finished the game with a fine hat-trick – having opened the scoring for his team with a neat finish in the first period before making it 2-0 minutes before half-time.

The Spanish international's third goal came in the second half, with a fine left-footed volley after some fine work by Roony Bardghji.

Fermin's special performance at Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys has now earned him the UEFA Champions League Player of the Week award.

It is the second time that a Barcelona player has won the prize this season, after Marcus Rashford bagged the award on Matchday 1 after his brace against Newcastle United at St. James' Park.

The Spaniard beat Felix Nmecha, Gorka Guruzeta, and Dennis Man to the award.

BARCELONA MANAGER'S MAJOR SELECTION DILEMMA HEADING INTO FIRST EL CLASICO OF THE SEASON

Diary Times Desk : With the El Clasico scheduled for this weekend, Hansi Flick has a crucial task of deciding on the defensive setup that can withstand Real Madrid's lightning-fast attack.

While the Barcelona defence has not been as confident as last season in their approach this time around, the Bernabeu poses a bigger challenge, requiring careful selection and tactical precision.

Against Olympiacos, the pairing of Pau Cubarsi and Eric Garcia impressed once again. Their coordination, ball-playing ability, and calm presence under pressure make them Flick's go-to choice in central defence.

However, Barcelona's high defensive line has been less reliable this season. Last year, they successfully caught Real Madrid offside 12 times, showing the effectiveness of their pressing game.

This season, though, the team's timing and collective movement have been slightly off, making the defence more vulnerable against fast counter-attacks.

BARCELONA MISSING VETERAN DEFENDER FOLLOWING SUMMER EXIT, SAYS EX-STAR – ‘HE WAS FUNDAMENTAL’

Diary Times Desk : As Barcelona head into El Clasico this weekend, the team's defence stands out as their weakest link on the field and a danger against a forward line that boasts of Vinicius Jr and Kylian Mbappe.

After all, the Catalans' backline is far from as secure as it was last season with several teams finding ways to unlock the high defensive line. While multiple factors are responsible, the departure of Inigo Martinez is seen as one of the primary ones.

The veteran star was, after all, one of the leaders at the back for Barcelona and a wonderful partner for Pau Cubarsi. His departure in the summer came as a shock for Flick and left him with a void that he is still struggling to fill.

Martinez's absence is felt, says Salinas. Speaking to the media earlier this week, former Barcelona forward Julio Salinas commented on the situation with Barcelona's defence and linked it directly to the departure of Inigo Martinez.

BARCELONA DELIGHTED WITH ON-LOAN FORWARD BUT IN NO HURRY TO DISCUSS PERMANENT MOVE

Diary Times Desk : Marcus Rashford is off to a fine start at FC Barcelona since arriving on loan from Manchester United during the summer.

Considering his last season in England had been a bit of an up and down, there were some concerns about how he would fare at the Catalan club.

And even though he was off to a slow start, the Manchester United loanee has stepped up and performed exceptionally in recent weeks, especially in the UEFA Champions League.

Barcelona delighted with Rashford. As such, SPORT reports that Barcelona are extremely pleased with the performances of Rashford since joining the club.

At the same time, however, the La Liga champions are in no hurry to decide the player's future at the club. Within the offices, there is a belief that it is still too early to take a firm stance, and they prefer to observe how his season develops before taking any action.

The plan is to wait a few months to see whether Rashford's performances remain at the same high level.

REPORT – REASON BEHIND BARCELONA RISING SUPERSTAR'S RECENT MEETING WITH SUPERAGENT

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona prodigy Lamine Yamal continues to draw attention both on and off the pitch, with his recent meeting with super-agent Jorge Mendes sparking speculation across Spain.

While many assumed the meeting was related to future transfer plans, the reality was quite different and far more personal.

According to Catalunya Radio (via SPORT), however, Mendes met with the 18-year-old star to advise him on minor habits that could be improved in the dressing room.

The conversation lasted nearly three hours and was focused entirely on Yamal's development as a professional rather than contractual matters.

A meeting meant to guide, not to negotiate

The meeting was organised in agreement with Barcelona sporting director Deco, who also joined Mendes after his talk with Yamal.

