

NEWS IN BRIEF

IN KARUR STAMPEDE CASE, SUPREME COURT PANEL SWINGS INTO ACTION, TO VISIT SITE

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court-appointed panel tasked with investigating the stampede in Tamil Nadu's Karur last month is to visit the site of the tragedy soon, sources told NDTV Thursday. Ahead of that visit, the panel has written to Tamil Nadu's ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam to appoint a nodal officer - who will act as the 'key facilitator' between the three-member panel; the Central Bureau of Investigation, which the top court directed to probe the stampede; and the state government, to ensure coordination and cooperation between all three entities. On October 12 the top court had ordered the CBI to probe the stampede, which broke out at a political rally headlined by actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam chief Vijay. The TVK chief, who will make his electoral debut in next year's election, has emerged as a dark horse in that race.

INDIA'S BROKEN OATH OF CARE

Diary Times Desk : On October 23, a 26-year-old doctor in Satara, Maharashtra, allegedly died by suicide, leaving a four-page note and a message on her palm stating that she had been raped four times by a police sub-inspector. She accused other police officials and an MP of also pressuring her to issue fake fitness certificates. Just days earlier, on October 20, a female doctor at a State-run medical college in Howrah, West Bengal, was assaulted and threatened with rape by the relatives of a pregnant patient. Reports of violence against healthcare workers—doctors beaten by patient attendants, nurses facing verbal abuse, and ASHA workers attacked during home visits—have become alarmingly routine. Attacks particularly on rural and government hospital workers with little or no security have exposed the vulnerability of those at the frontline of public health. Operating in emotionally charged environments, they often bear the brunt of systemic failures: overcrowded wards, staff shortages, inadequate security.

PREVENTED 'WAR' BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

'YOU'LL NEVER DO BUSINESS': TRUMP BRAGS OF 250% TARIFF 'THREAT' TO INDIA, PAK



Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump on Wednesday repeated claims of having prevented 'war' between India and Pakistan in May by threatening to impose an impossible 250 per cent tariff on both countries.

The United States President has repeatedly tried to claim credit for the May 10 ceasefire after Operation Sindoor - India's armed response to the Pak-backed Pahalgam terror attack - despite Delhi clearly stating military action was halted only after a direct request from Islamabad.

Those claims have revolved around threatening to withhold trade deals with the US and imposing massive tariffs, a tactic that has underpinned American foreign policy in his second term, starting with menacing Colombia with a 50 per cent tax to force it to accept plane loads of deported immigrants. "If you look at India and Pakistan ... they were going at it," Trump said in South Korea, the last stop on his Asia tour, "Seven planes were shot down. They were really starting to go."

Trump declared the PM and Pak leaders initially refused to play ball. "They both said, 'no, no, no, you should let us fight.' But after two days they said, 'we understand' and stopped fighting."

Neither India nor Pakistan have responded to this latest statement.

Trump then praised PM Modi, calling him 'the nicest-looking guy... but tough as hell'.

The US has hit India with a tariff of 50 per cent.

Half of that is Trump's 'reciprocal' levy, i.e., for what he thinks is an unequal balance of trade between the two countries. The other is a 'penalty' tax for Delhi continuing to buy discounted crude oil from Moscow. These purchases, Trump has ranted, have helped fund Russia's war on Ukraine.

That 50 per cent could come down to 15 per cent if the long-delayed trade deal is signed.

Delhi and Washington are negotiating a deal expected to boost exchanges to over \$500 billion by 2030, but it is far from being complete, with US demands of access to India's dairy and agriculture markets a sticking point. But India has made it clear the deal has no connection to Op Sindoor or the ceasefire.

MORE THAN 17 LAKH DEATHS IN INDIA LINKED TO AIR POLLUTION IN 2022: LANCET REPORT

Diary Times Desk : The deaths of more than 17.18 lakh Indians in 2022 can be linked to air pollution, according to the latest report by Lancet. Published on October 29, the ninth edition of the 'Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change' - prepared in collaboration with the World Health Organization - also noted that Indians had experienced record-high hours of exposure to heatwaves in 2024.

Scientists associated with the report noted that India had an "opportunity" to improve several aspects - such as cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions, decreasing its dependence on coal and other fossil fuels and creating cleaner air - by opting for a quicker transition to clean energy.

In the past, however, the Union government has repeatedly insisted that there is no data to show that air pollution causes deaths.

The Lancet report

The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change assesses links between climate change and health annually. The report studies links between health and climate change through 58 peer-reviewed indicators across different categories (such as health hazards, exposures and impacts; economics and finance, and so on). Specific indicators this year included exposure to heatwaves (a new indicator), sleep, labour capacity, drought, extreme rain and food security.

Around 128 scientists from 71 academic institutions and UN global agencies worked to produce the ninth edition of the report which they published on October 29. This latest report includes new metrics which record deaths from extreme heat and wildfire smoke, the coverage of urban blue spaces (rivers, lakes, and coastlines) and more.



TEACHERS GET SHOW CAUSE NOTICE FOR TAKING PART IN RSS MARCH IN KARNATAKA



Diary Times Desk : Several teachers and non-teaching staff at a government school in Karnataka's Bidar have received show cause notices for allegedly taking part in a march carried out by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the BJP's ideological parent. The participation is seen as a violation of service rules that prohibit government employees from taking part in political or religious activities.

The Block Education Officer of Aurad in Bidar district issued show cause notices to teachers and staff who participated in an RSS march on October 7 and 13.

The action follows complaints being filed by the Dalit Sena Taluk Unit of Aurad and the Bahujan Seva Samiti. Videos and photographs showing the participation of these teachers in the RSS march were also made available, prompting the department to initiate disciplinary proceedings.

The Block Education Officer's notice stated that by joining the RSS Path Sanchalan (march), the staff had acted against government service regulations, and they have now been directed to submit a written explanation and appear in person at its office.

The notice also says that failure to respond could result in unilateral disciplinary action under the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1957.

INTERNATIONAL DRUG SYNDICATE BUSTED, EX-CUSTOMS OFFICIAL NABBED



Diary Times Desk : The Delhi Police on Wednesday claimed to have unearthed an international drug syndicate operating in India, Thailand and Dubai with the arrest of a former Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) officer and seizure of hydroponic marijuana (ocean-grown weed) worth Rs 27.24 crore in the international market.

The accused, identified as Rohit Kumar (35), a resident of Gopal Nagar extension, Najafgarh, Southwest Delhi, was dismissed from service in 2023 following a departmental inquiry for his role in a 3-kg gold smuggling case during his posting at Kannur Airport, Kerala. The police got a tip-off about the supply of hydroponic marijuana near Janak Cinema, West Delhi. Acting on the information, the police laid a trap and arrested Kumar.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Kumar shifted to Dubai following his dismissal from the Customs Department where he came in contact with Abhishek, a resident of Bihar.

Together, they conspired to import hydroponic marijuana from Thailand into India. Kumar used his deep-rooted connections within the Customs Department to ensure that carriers bringing the contraband into India were cleared without checks, Yadav mentioned. Hydroponic marijuana (ocean-grown weed) is a rare, high-end synthetic variety of marijuana, preferred by affluent users and party circuits due to its extremely high tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content. The higher THC has greater potential for negative health effects, including addiction and psychosis.

TELANGANA CABINET

MOHAMMAD AZHARUDDIN SET TO JOIN TELANGANA CABINET AS MINISTER TOMORROW



Diary Times Desk : Former Indian cricket captain and senior Congress leader Mohammad Azharuddin is poised to join the Telangana Cabinet on Friday, marking his formal entry into the state government.

A senior minister confirmed to NDTV that the move, long under consideration, is aimed at addressing the Congress's lack of Muslim representation in the cabinet - though it also comes at a politically strategic moment, with the party looking to consolidate minority support ahead of the crucial Jubilee Hills by-election on November 11.

Azharuddin, 62, who previously served as a Member of Parliament and is currently a Working President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), was recently nominated to the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota, paving the way for his ministerial appointment.

All key Muslim candidates from the Congress lost in the 2023 Assembly elections, leaving the community without direct representation at the state's highest executive level.

Azharuddin's elevation is thus seen as a fulfilment of a promise and a critical step toward pacifying and engaging the minority electorate, particularly in Hyderabad, where the party would hope to capitalise on his local roots and public profile. His induction will raise the strength of the Revanth Reddy cabinet to 16, moving closer to the maximum permissible strength of 18 ministers.

The timing of the announcement, just days before the Jubilee Hills by-election campaign intensifies, is an indication of the constituency's political importance. The bypoll was necessitated by the death of sitting BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath.

BIHAR ELECTIONS 2025: NDA TO RELEASE JOINT MANIFESTO TOMORROW IN PATNA



Diary Times Desk : The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will release a joint manifesto for the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections on Friday (October 31). All senior leaders of the alliance are expected to be present at the event which is scheduled to take place at 9:30 am in Patna. NDA includes the Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha.

As per reports, the NDA's upcoming manifesto is expected to highlight its focus on education, healthcare, agriculture, employment, women empowerment and infrastructure, reinforcing its theme of "double-engine growth" - symbolising coordinated governance between the state and the Centre. As per party sources, the manifesto will serve as a detailed roadmap for Bihar's progress, with special emphasis on employment generation, rural connectivity and welfare initiatives.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Mahagathabandhan, led by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Congress, released its manifesto titled 'Bihar Ka Tejashwi Pran', promising to pass a law within 20 days of forming government, to provide government jobs to one member of every family in the state.



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MUMBAI'S FAKE SCIENTIST LIKELY HAD ACCESS TO NUCLEAR DATA, 14 MAPS FOUND



Diary Times Desk : In a crucial development after the arrest of a fake scientist at the country's premier nuclear research unit, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai police have recovered suspicious nuclear data and 14 maps from the suspect. These documents are now being examined to determine if they contain any sensitive or confidential nuclear information.

Akhtar Qutubuddin Hussaini was arrested in Versova last week, posing as a scientist who went by various names. Several fake passports, Aadhaar and PAN cards, as well as fake BARC IDs, were recovered from him. While one ID identified him as Ali Raza Hussain, the other named him Alexander Palmer. Sources suggest Hussaini made several international calls over the past few months, and his call records are now being traced.

RSS GETS GO-AHEAD FOR MARCH ON CONGRESS CHIEF'S TURF, BUT WITH RIDERS

Diary Times Desk : The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will hold a march in Gurmitkal, the political stronghold of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, on October 31, but with certain conditions. Yadgir Deputy Commissioner Harshal Boyer granted permission for the RSS march with ten specific conditions.

The march will begin from Narendra Rathod Layout and pass through Samrat Circle, Basaveshwara Circle, Hanuman Temple, and Kumbara Wadi, before concluding at the designated point, according to the officials.

The ten conditions, with which RSS has got a green signal to carry out a march, include a ban on carrying weapons, restrictions to the approved route, no public inconvenience, and strict instructions to avoid slogans or acts that could hurt caste or religious sentiments and lead to communal violence.

AMIT SHAH ANNOUNCES GRAND PARADE ON SARDAR PATEL'S 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Diary Times Desk : On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday highlighted the monumental role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in uniting India post-independence and announced a series of grand celebrations to mark the Iron Man's 150th birth anniversary.

Addressing the gathering, Shah said, "We all know that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a big role in uniting India post-independence. Tomorrow is the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel...This year's unique celebrations of the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas will include a grand parade. The Home Ministry has decided that, from this year onward, a grand parade will be held on every 31st October...During the Parade, CAPFs and State Police forces will showcase their skills, discipline, and valour. PM Modi will take part in the parade at 7:55 A.M., the way parade is conducted in Republic Day, the same will be held on the Birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel every year."

Amit Shah accused Congress of deliberately sidelining Sardar Patel post-independence, delaying Bharat Ratna by 41 years due to lack of respect, and failing to build any samadhi or memorial. He credited Narendra Modi, as Gujarat Chief Minister, for commissioning the world-famous Statue of Unity and Sardar Patel Memorial.

REGIME CHANGE OPERATION, PLAN TO KILL NON-MUSLIMS: DELHI POLICE OPPOSE BAIL TO UMAR KHALID, OTHERS IN SUPREME COURT



Diary Times Desk : After the Supreme Court pulled it up for the delay in replying to the bail pleas filed by Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam and others in connection with the Delhi Riots conspiracy case, the Delhi Police has filed a 389-page affidavit detailing why the accused should not be granted bail.

The Police has cited "ocular and irrefutable documentary as well as technical evidence" that point to a conspiracy to incite "nationwide riots on communal lines". It has also relied heavily on the recent judgment in Tasleem Ahmed v. State Govt. of NCT of Delhi, in which the Delhi High Court blamed the accused on bail in the Delhi Riots conspiracy case for the delay in the trial in the case and said that the same was impacting those still in jail.

KERALA CM PINARAYI QUESTIONS HASTE IN SIR, CALLS FOR ALL-PARTY MEETING ON NOV 5

Diary Times Desk : Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, on Wednesday, October 29, has voiced serious concern over the hurried implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, which is being carried out across 12 states and Union Territories, without adequate consultation with political parties.

Speaking to the media soon after the weekly Cabinet meeting, the Chief Minister said that the state Cabinet has decided to convene an all-party meeting on November 5 at 4 pm to discuss the issue and decide on the next course of action.

"It is essential that the process of voter list revision is transparent, inclusive, and enjoys the confidence of all stakeholders," Vijayan added.

The statement follows a similar observation from him earlier which had flagged procedural concerns in the way the Election Commission was conducting the voter roll revision across several states, including Kerala. He emphasised the need for wider consultation to prevent administrative errors and ensure public confidence in the process.

POLICE SUSPECT THIRD VEHICLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN ANDHRA BUS FIRE ACCIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Andhra Pradesh Police suspect the involvement of third vehicle in the recent bus fire accident that claimed the lives of 19 passengers.

In the early hours of October 24, the Bengaluru bound sleeper bus ran over a bike, which had already met with an accident at Chinna Tekuru village in Kurnool district. As the bike was caught underneath the bus and was being dragged along with the bus, it's fuel tank cap opened leading to the burst. Subsequently bus caught fire. There were 44 passengers in the bus and several managed to escape.

According to police, the skid marks of the Kaveri Travels bus were found slightly ahead of the spot where the two-wheeler initially fell killing it's rider on the spot, suggesting that the motorbike had moved a little further after the first impact.

"The difference in the skid mark position of the bike indicates that another vehicle could have hit it before the bus ran over it," Kurnool district superintendent of police Vikrant Patil told PTI.

He said that the police are investigating to determine whether a third vehicle was involved in this accident.

CITY DOCTORS REPORT 50% RISE IN EYE PROBLEMS AS SMOG CONTINUES TO ENGULF DELHI

Diary Times Desk : The national capital's continued poor air quality and thick smog engulfing the city are not only harmful for the lungs but also eye health, said ophthalmologists on Thursday, while reporting a 50 per cent surge in eye-related problems.

The thick blanket of smog and dangerously high levels of pollution have led to a spike in cases of eye allergies, dryness, burning sensations, and excessive watering, affecting both adults and children.

Doctors say that the toxic cocktail of smoke, particulate matter, and chemical residues released during firecracker burning is not only harmful for the lungs, but for the eyes as well.

"If your cornea gets damaged, you need a corneal transplant to restore your vision. However, if pollution levels continue to rise, a time will come when no corneal transplant will be effective, because the cornea is getting damaged due to pollution," Prof Sudarshan Khokhar, Professor of Ophthalmology at AIIMS, told IANS, adding that the elderly are more vulnerable as the cornea is already weak in them.

AMIT SHAH TARGETS RAHUL, SONIA GANDHI IN BIHAR RALLY; SAYS INDIA BLOC WILL BE WIPED OUT IN STATE

Diary Times Desk : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said the INDIA bloc will be "wiped out" in Bihar polls as people will "take revenge" for Congress workers allegedly insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mother and Rahul Gandhi "deriding" the PM and 'Chhathi Maiyya'.

Addressing back-to-back rallies in Lakhisarai and Munger districts, he alleged that Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, insulted 'Chhathi Maiyya' while criticising Modi.

In a jibe at Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, he called upon people to press on EVM buttons having NDA symbols with such rage that the tremors are "felt in Italy".

"Sita Mata had worshipped 'Chhati Mata' in Munger...Rahul Gandhi insulted the goddess as he is ignorant of India's culture since Italy is his maternal home," Shah alleged.

The Union minister claimed that Bihar witnessed 'jungle raj' during the chief ministership of Lalu Prasad and Rabri Devi, while asserting that every vote to NDA will bring development to the state.

INDIA'S CHABAHR PORT IN IRAN GETS SIX-MONTH EXEMPTION FROM US SANCTIONS: MEA



Diary Times Desk : The United States has granted a six-month waiver from sanctions on India's Chabahar port project in Iran, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

Addressing a press conference, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "For Chabahar port in Iran, we have been granted exemption for a six-month period from the US sanctions."

Jaiswal also said that India is studying the implications of US sanctions on Russian oil companies.

"We are studying the implications of the recent US sanctions on Russian oil companies. Our decisions naturally take into account the evolving dynamics of the global market," he said.

3 KILLED, OVER 1 LAKH DISPLACED AFTER CYCLONE MONTHA IN ANDHRA PRADESH

Diary Times Desk : Three people have been reported dead in Andhra Pradesh after Cyclone Montha made landfall in the state. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu announced a financial aid of Rs 5 lakh for each victim's family.

Initial reports said the cyclone damaged farms and crops across 87,000 hectares, affecting 78,796 farmers in 1,825 villages. The storm also killed 42 cattle.

Naidu has told officials to restore power supply by Wednesday night and complete road repairs by Thursday. He warned that any negligence would invite strict action. On Wednesday, Naidu did an aerial survey and also visited cyclone-affected areas to assess the damage first-hand.

During a review on Wednesday, the Chief Minister expressed displeasure over waterlogging in Ongole, rebuking the Prakasam District Collector and stressing that such administrative lapses must not be repeated.

INDIA CONFIRMS 6-MONTH EXEMPTION FROM US SANCTIONS ON IRAN'S CHABAHR PORT

Diary Times Desk : American sanctions will not apply to India's Chabahar Port in Iran effective retrospectively from October 29, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said today. The government last year signed a 10-year contract with Iran in which the state-run India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) promised \$370 million of investments in Chabahar - a strategic port for India.

Chabahar is seen as a gateway to the Indian Ocean, and is also critical for India's humanitarian aid for the people of Afghanistan.

The MEA's announcement comes amid India and the US' hectic negotiations in finalising a major trade deal.

"We continue to remain engaged with the US side on finalising the trade deal. Both sides are continuing to hold discussions. For any further update, I would refer you to the Ministry of Commerce," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said.

JUSTICE SURYA KANT, WIFE NET WORTH: RS 8 CRORE IN FDS, 4.23 CRORE IN PFS, 1.1 KG GOLD, AGRI LAND, FLATS AND MORE

Diary Times Desk : Justice Surya Kant Net Worth: Chief Justice of India (CJI) Bhushan R. Gavai on Monday recommended Justice Surya Kant's name to the Centre as his successor, paving the way for Justice Kant to become the 53rd Chief Justice of India. The recommendation follows a request from the Law Ministry seeking CJI Gavai's nomination, ahead of his scheduled retirement on November 23. And if all goes well, Justice Surya Kant will become the next Chief Justice of India. Notably, the senior-most judge in the Supreme Court of India, Justice Surya Kant, has assets worth crores. As per the Supreme Court's website, Justice Surya Kant and his wife as Fixed Deposits worth over Rs 8 crore (Rs 80,045,089) and provident fund deposits worth Rs 42,393,759. Notably, despite having assets worth crores, Justice Surya Kant has doesn't own a vehicle while his wife has a WagonR car.

MUMBAI HOSTAGE-TAKER DIES AFTER STANDOFF WITH COPS, 17 CHILDREN RESCUED

Diary Times Desk : Rohit Arya, the man accused of taking 17 children hostage in Mumbai's Powai area on Thursday, has died after being injured in an exchange of gunfire with police.

According to the police, Arya shot at the police using an air gun during a rescue operation, prompting the police to return one round of fire.

The bullet hit Arya on the right side of his chest and died during treatment. His post-mortem is being conducted at the JJ hospital.

The dramatic confrontation took place inside a small film studio called RA Studios, where Arya had lured a group of children for what he described as an "audition".

Police say the children, all between the ages of 8 and 14, were held hostage for about two hours before being rescued unharmed.



6 SOLDIERS KILLED IN BLAST IN PAKISTAN'S KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Diary Times Desk :

At least six soldiers, including a Captain, were killed in an IED blast targeting a convoy of the security forces in Pakistan's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Wednesday, the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's media wing, said.

The convoy came under attack in Sultani area in the restive Kurram tribal district bordering Afghanistan. In the ensuing gunbattle, seven terrorists were killed.

The terrorists opened fire on the convoy while it was moving through the area. During the engagement, an improvised explosive device (IED) detonated near Dogar, causing heavy casualties.

As a result of the blast, one officer and five soldiers were killed.

Security forces have cordoned off the area and launched a search operation to trace the perpetrators.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN OPPOSED STRANGER URINATING ON HIS CAR IN CANADA, GETS KILLED

Diary Times Desk : An Indian-origin businessman in Canada was attacked by a stranger in an unprovoked incident after the former found him urinating on his car. The assault took place in Edmonton on October 19.

Arvi Singh Sagoo, 55, was returning to the car with his girlfriend after dinner when they found the stranger urinating on the car. After that, the situation took a violent turn.

Sagoo asked the stranger, "Hey, what are you doing?", to which the man responded by saying, "Whatever I want." He then walked up to Sagoo and punched him in the head. He fell to the ground after the attack, after which his girlfriend called 911, Sagoo's brother told Global News. When the paramedics arrived, Arvi was already unconscious. Although he was taken to the hospital and placed on life support, he died five days later.

Vincent Ram, a close friend of Sagoo, launched a fundraiser to support his children and to cover funeral costs and living expenses.

"This fundraiser aims to support a very kind and loving father who is facing death and ensuring that his two children have the necessary resources and support during this challenging time," the message reads.

"PUSH THEM BACK TO CAVES": PAK DEFENCE MINISTER'S BIG WARNING TO TALIBAN



Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif on Wednesday threatened the Afghan Taliban and said that Islamabad would not even need a fraction of its arsenal to "completely obliterate" them and drive them "back to the caves for hiding".

Amid worsening tensions and after a four-day dialogue in Istanbul between the two nations failed, Asif posted the warning on X.

"Let me assure them that Pakistan does not require to employ even a fraction of its full arsenal to completely obliterate the Taliban regime and push them back to the caves for hiding. If they wish so, the repeat of the scenes of their rout at Tora Bora with their tails between the legs would surely be a spectacle to watch for the people of the region," he wrote.

FIVE NEW SUSPECTS ARRESTED OVER LOUVRE JEWELLERY THEFT

Diary Times Desk : Five more suspects have been arrested over their involvement in the Louvre heist, Paris' public prosecutor has said.

They were detained on Wednesday night in the Paris region during coordinated raids, according to Laure Beccuau.

One of the suspects is thought to be part of the four-man team that carried out the heist, who were seen on CCTV.

Two of the other alleged thieves have already been arrested and have "partially recognised" their involvement in the brazen theft, while the fourth person has not yet been caught.

It is not clear what role the other newly arrested people allegedly played in the theft, but Beccuau told French radio station RTL on Thursday that they "may eventually inform us about how the incident took place".

NUCLEAR SABER-RATTLING FROM TRUMP AND PUTIN SIGNALS A DANGEROUS

NEW ERA

Diary Times Desk : The Kremlin's constant nuclear boasts may have finally struck a chord in the White House, with President Donald Trump ordering the resumption of US nuclear weapons tests.

"Because of other countries testing programs, I have instructed the Department of War to start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal basis," Trump wrote in a post on social media Thursday.

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was referring to a nuclear weapons test, or a test of a nuclear-capable weapons system. His announcement came shortly before a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in South Korea, but he indicated China had not prompted his decision, telling a reporter later Thursday that "it had to do with others."

SATELLITE IMAGES SHOW BLOODSHED, MASS KILLINGS IN WAR-RAVAGED SUDAN

Diary Times Desk : There's been so much bloodshed in war-ravaged Sudan that it is visible even from space. Satellite images from the Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab (HRL) show a rebel organisation conducting mass killings after capturing El-Fasher last week.

Sudan has been ravaged by a deadly civil war for more than two years. The war between the Sudanese Army and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) began in April 2023, when the two units, previously sharing power, fell out over plans to integrate their forces during a transition towards democracy.

On October 26, the RSF said that it captured the army headquarters in the city of El-Fasher, North Darfur. The city had been the last stronghold of the army in Darfur.

The fighting has displaced millions, plunged half of Sudan into hunger, and spread disease throughout the country.

Evidence Of Mass Killings

In a report published on Monday, Yale HRL observed RSF vehicles deployed in tactical formation consistent with house-to-house clearance operations in El-Fasher's Daraja Oula neighbourhood, where civilians have sought refuge as recently as last week.

"Imagery analysis shows objects consistent with the size of human bodies on the ground near RSF vehicles, including at least five instances of reddish earth discoloration," the report said.

"House-to-house clearance operations are approximately 250 meters from Al Safiya mosque - which the RSF attacked in a drone strike on 19 September 2025.

WORLD'S FIRST WHITE IBERIAN LYNX SPOTTED IN SPAIN: "PROOF THAT CONSERVATION WORKS"

Diary Times Desk : A white Iberian lynx, believed to be the first of its kind ever documented, has been spotted in the mountains of Jaén in southern Spain. The sighting of the rare, leucistic wildcat is being celebrated as a landmark success for the conservation of the Iberian lynx, a species once on the verge of extinction.

A video captured by Spanish wildlife photographer Angel Hidalgo shows a lynx with an unusually pale, cream-coloured coat, while retaining the typical features of its species -- sharp eyes, dark ear tufts, and the signature facial ruff.

"I've been setting up cameras for years, with many failed attempts and long hours of work. But this time, nature gave me something truly unique, Hidalgo said.



WANT TO WIN OVER TRUMP? ASIAN LEADERS SEE FLATTERY AS THE MAGIC INGREDIENT



Diary Times Desk : At least that appears to be the attitude of leaders who have been meeting with the United States president on his first visit to East and Southeast Asia since he re-entered the White House in January.

A leader with few equals for bombast and bravado, Trump has been showered with praise and gestures of veneration throughout his five-day tour of the region, which culminated in Thursday's high-stakes summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim praised Trump for his "tenacity" and "courage" in achieving the "almost impossible" task of securing a ceasefire agreement between Thailand and Cambodia.

In Japan, Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi gushed to Trump about how "impressed and inspired" she was by his peace efforts and said she had recommended him for the Nobel Peace Prize.

HURRICANE MELISSA LEAVES A TRAIL OF DEVASTATION AFTER TEARING THROUGH THE CARIBBEAN

Diary Times Desk : Hurricane Melissa brought devastation and death to the Caribbean as it tore through the region as one of the most powerful Atlantic storms in more than 150 years.

Torrential downpours and forceful winds unleashed widespread destruction along the storm's path in Jamaica, Cuba and the Bahamas. At least 30 people have died, though the full toll of the catastrophic storm may take days or weeks to be determined.

As the hurricane headed toward Bermuda early Thursday, emergency officials in countries along Melissa's path have begun to pick up the pieces – clearing roads to reach isolated communities in need of relief.

CEASEFIRE CRUMBLES AS ISRAEL CONDUCTS FRESH STRIKES IN GAZA

Diary Times Desk : Israel said it struck an arms dump in Gaza on Wednesday, hours after the deadliest night of bombing since the start of a US-brokered truce, warning it would continue to operate to take out perceived threats.

The military announced it had carried out a precision strike on a site in the Beit Lahia area of northern Gaza where it said weapons were being stockpiled for "an imminent terror attack".

Israeli troops, it said, would remain deployed in "accordance with the ceasefire agreement and will continue to operate to remove any immediate threat".

Hamas-run Gaza's civil defence agency told AFP that one Palestinian was killed in the latest strike -- and that 104 -- including 46 children and 24 women -- had died in the previous night's bombardment.

The Israeli military launched a wave of bombing after one of its soldiers was killed in Gaza on Tuesday. By mid-morning on Wednesday, it said it had begun "renewed enforcement of the ceasefire".

Both US President Donald Trump and regional mediator Qatar said they expected the ceasefire to hold, but inside Gaza, displaced families were losing hope.



RAJNATH SINGH TO MEET US DEFENCE SECRETARY PETE HEGSETH IN MALAYSIA

Diary Times Desk : Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to meet U.S. counterpart Pete Hegseth in Malaysia on Friday to ease the strain on ties from punitive U.S. tariffs, two Indian officials said, laying the ground for a possible bilateral visit.

The talks, the first between the two men and on the sidelines of the regional ASEAN defence ministers' meeting in Kuala Lumpur, are expected to include a review of India's plans to purchase military hardware from the U.S., such as six Boeing P8I aircraft for the Indian Navy, as well as a fresh India-U.S. defence cooperation framework, the officials said.

JAPAN'S TAKAICHI BACKS QUAD IN FIRST CALL TO MODI AMID US SILENCE

Diary Times Desk : As the United States continues to stay silent on the future of the Quad during President Donald Trump's ongoing Asia tour, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi assured her Indian counterpart of Japan's commitment to the Indo-Pacific grouping as a conduit for its strategic interests in the region.

The two leaders spoke on Wednesday afternoon in their first conversation since Takaichi became Japan's first woman prime minister last week.

According to a readout from Japan's foreign ministry, Takaichi told Modi that Japan and India share "fundamental values and strategic interests" and would continue working together to realise a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific", including through Japan-Australia-India-US (Quad)".

MORE THAN 130 KILLED: HOW DID A BRAZIL RAID ON A RIO FAVELA TURN SO DEADLY?

Diary Times Desk :

A state police operation targeting a major drug gang in Brazil has resulted in the deaths of 132 people in low-income neighbourhoods in Rio de Janeiro – the deadliest raid in the country's history.

Authorities initially said fewer than half that number had been killed in the favelas – the Portuguese term for slum. Protests against excessive police force have since broken out and activists are calling for Rio's governor to resign over what local people have described as a "slaughter".

State police said the operation carried out on Tuesday had been planned for months. The "sting" aimed to drive suspects into a forested hillside where special operation units were waiting to ambush them.

The following day, dozens of favela residents gathered in front of the state government headquarters shouting "assassins!" just hours after family members laid dozens of bodies out on a street in one of the targeted areas. Among those expressing shock about the death toll was President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. According to Brazil's justice minister, Lula was "astonished" that the federal government had not been informed about or asked to cooperate in the operation beforehand.

Arriving on foot and in armoured cars, police launched a predawn raid targeting the Comando Vermelho (Red Command) gang, one of Brazil's oldest criminal organisations, in Rio's northern neighbourhoods of Penha Complex and Alemao Complex.

'TIME FOR INDIAN FRAUDS TO GO HOME': MAGA HAILS FLORIDA'S H-1B 'BAN'

Diary Times Desk : As always, the Internet remains in a warring state over the ever-so-divisive H-1B visa, which was introduced in the United States in 1990 to hire foreign workers in 'specialty occupations.' Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who has long dragged the nonimmigrant program as a "scam," has expanded the definition of Donald Trump's immigration crackdown with his latest directive targeting the category. While at a news conference at the University of South Florida (USF) in Tampa on Wednesday (US time), the Republican politician pushed state's board of governors to get rid of H-1B sponsorships in state universities. "We need to make sure our citizens here in Florida are first in line for job opportunities," he said. "And if there's things that the universities need, that somehow, they just can't find in Florida, to me, of all employers, they are the ones that would be most responsible for why they can't find what they need."

**"BILL GATES FINALLY ADMITTED HE WAS WRONG": DONALD TRUMP ON CLIMATE CRISIS REMARKS**

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump claimed victory Wednesday over what he called the "hoax" of climate change, after billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates said a warming world would not end civilization.

"I (WE!) just won the War on the Climate Change Hoax. Bill Gates has finally admitted that he was completely WRONG on the issue," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"It took courage to do so, and for that we are all grateful."

Microsoft co-founder Gates said in a long memo this week that climate change "will not lead to humanity's demise," in what was seen as a major pivot by the 70-year-old.

Gates added that while climate change would have "serious" consequences, "people will be able to live and thrive in most places on Earth for the foreseeable future."

DONALD TRUMP HAS BURST NARENDRA MODI'S FOREIGN POLICY BUBBLE

Diary Times Desk : Scholars have touted our age as the "Asian century," with the emergence of two Asian giants in the world economic order, China and India. Over the last three decades, they have been classified as the world's two fastest-growing economies. By 2007, their joint contribution to global economic growth was already close to that of the United States.

In 2024, Asia accounted for nearly 60 percent of global growth, and China surpassed the United States in its contribution to global manufacturing output — nearly 28 percent of the total, compared with the US share of 17.3 percent. Meanwhile, India ranked in fifth place for manufacturing after Japan and Germany, albeit trailing far behind its Asian neighbor with less than 3 percent of world output.

There is an ongoing reconfiguration of the US-dominated world order in the shadow of military conflicts, economic recessions, and most recently trade wars.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has been combined with attacks on Lebanon, Yemen, Iran, and most recently Qatar. India and Pakistan also fought a limited war in May of this year.

At the same time, the United States has launched a tariff war against many different countries from the Global North and Global South alike.

UKRAINE BOLSTERS POKROVSK DEFENCES AS RUSSIA ESCALATES ASSAULTS

Diary Times Desk : Ukraine is intensifying its efforts to defend the strategic hub of Pokrovsk, aiming to secure key supply and evacuation routes and root out Russian infantry infiltrating the city, the top army commander said on Thursday.

Oleksandr Syrskyi said he visited the area to meet his troops as Russia — almost four years into its invasion of Ukraine — continued to increase its assaults.

He dismissed Moscow's assertion that its forces had trapped the Ukrainian troops inside the eastern stronghold.

"The enemy infantry, avoiding combat, is gathering in urban areas and changing locations, so the primary task is to locate and destroy them," Syrskyi said on the Telegram app.

"The main priority is to save the lives of our soldiers," he said.

KASH PATEL SLAMMED FOR USING \$60 MILLION FBI JET TO WATCH GIRLFRIEND PERFORM

Diary Times Desk : FBI Director Kash Patel allegedly used a government jet to attend his girlfriend's singing performance at a wrestling event in Nashville, according to flight records and claims made by a former FBI agent.

Kyle Seraphin, a former FBI agent and outspoken MAGA supporter, said on his podcast that Patel flew aboard a \$60 million Department of Justice jet to see his girlfriend, country singer Alexis Wilkins, perform at the Real American Freestyle wrestling event at Pennsylvania State University over the weekend.

Flight logs, as per The Independent, show that a Justice Department-registered aircraft left Manassas Regional Airport in Virginia on October 25, landing about 40 minutes later at State College Regional Airport in Pennsylvania.

WHAT IS 'POSEIDON'? RUSSIA'S 'ONE-OF-A-KIND' UNDERWATER NUCLEAR DRONE

Diary Times Desk : Russia has successfully tested a nuclear-capable, nuclear-powered underwater drone, President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday, defying US President Donald Trump's warnings with Moscow's second test of a new nuclear weapons system in just a few days.

Putin on Sunday oversaw a test of another advanced nuclear-capable weapon — the Burevestnik cruise missile, which he said had an "unlimited range". Trump called that exercise not "appropriate".

"Yesterday, another test was conducted for another prospective system — the unmanned underwater device 'Poseidon,' also equipped with a nuclear power unit," Putin said in televised remarks while visiting a military hospital treating Russian soldiers wounded in Ukraine.

The Russian leader said there was "no way to intercept" the drone torpedo, which, according to Putin, can travel at a speed higher than conventional submarines and reach any continent in the world.

The device can operate at a depth of more than one kilometre (0.6 mile) and travel at speeds of up to 70 knots while remaining undetectable, according to a source in the Russian military-industrial complex quoted by state news agency TASS.



TRUMP 'SLAMS' \$13B USS GERALD R FORD'S EMALS TECH; ORDERS STEAM REVIVAL AS CHINA'S FUJIAN MASTERS IT

Diary Times Desk : When the USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), the world's largest aircraft carrier, was commissioned in July 2017, it was heralded as a harbinger of a new era of flattops thanks to its revolutionary Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) technology.

The aircraft carrier, which displaces a massive 100,000 tonnes, started a new tech and weapons race with China, which decided to adopt EMALS technology on its third aircraft carrier, Fujian.

Earlier this month, China conducted sea trials on Fujian, during which three aircraft —the fifth-generation stealth fighter jet J-35, J-15T, and carrier-based KJ-600 early warning and control aircraft — took off from the carrier using EMALS technology. Fujian is expected to be commissioned into the PLA Navy (PLAN) in the coming days.

WILL WORK WITH US TO RESOLVE ISSUES RELATED TO TIKTOK: CHINA

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump's meeting on Thursday with China's top leader, Xi Jinping, produced a raft of decisions to help dial back trade tensions, but no agreement on TikTok's ownership.

"China will work with the US to properly resolve issues related to TikTok," China's Commerce Ministry said after the meeting.

It gave no details on any progress toward ending uncertainty about the fate of the popular video-sharing platform in the US.

The Trump administration had been signalling that it may have finally reached a deal with Beijing to keep TikTok running in the US. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent had said on CBS's "Face the Nation" on Sunday that the two leaders will "consummate that transaction on Thursday in Korea."

INDIA TO STUDY IMPLICATIONS OF US SANCTIONS ON RUSSIAN OIL FIRMS



Diary Times Desk : India stated on Thursday that it is studying the implications of the fresh US sanctions on two Russian oil companies. New Delhi reaffirmed that its energy decisions will continue to be guided by the imperative of ensuring affordable and reliable supplies for its 1.4 billion citizens.

"We are studying the implications of these sanctions. As we have said before, the decisions that we take naturally take into account the evolving dynamics in the global market," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

He emphasised that India's position on the larger question of energy sourcing is well known. "We are guided by the imperative to secure affordable energy from diverse sources to meet the energy security requirements of 1.4 billion people," the MEA official said.



TRUMP SAYS HE HAS STRUCK DEAL WITH CHINA'S XI ON TARIFFS, RARE EARTH EXPORTS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump said he had struck a deal to reduce tariffs on China on Thursday in exchange for Beijing resuming US soybean purchases, keeping rare earths exports flowing and cracking down on the illicit trade of fentanyl.

His remarks after the face-to-face talks with Xi in the South Korean city of Busan, their first since 2019, marked the finale of Trump's whirlwind Asia trip on which he also touted trade breakthroughs with South Korea, Japan and Southeast Asian nations.

The meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, lasted nearly two hours. Trump shook hands and escorted Xi to his car before the US president was given a red-carpet send-off at the airport.

US ENDS AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF WORK PERMITS FOR FOREIGNERS, INDIANS TO BE AFFECTED

Diary Times Desk : Weeks after raising H1B visa fees to USD 100,000, the US authorities announced the end of automatic extension of Employment Authorisation Documents (EAD) for foreigners, in a move likely to impact a large number of Indian immigrants and workers.

In its latest efforts to crack down on immigration, the US Department of Homeland Security made the announcement on Wednesday while prioritising "the proper screening and vetting of aliens (foreigners)" before extending the validity of their employment authorisations or work permits.

As per the new rule, foreigners who file to renew their EAD on or after October 30, 2025, will no longer receive an automatic extension, the DHS said in a news release.

INDIA'S BEEN 'VERY GOOD' ON THAT FRONT: TRUMP REPEATS CLAIM ON DELHI REDUCING ENERGY PURCHASES FROM MOSCOW

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that India has been "very good" on the issue of reducing oil imports from Russia, reiterating his claim that Delhi will significantly reduce its energy purchases from Moscow.

Speaking to reporters onboard Air Force One on his way back to Washington following his summit meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Busan, Trump was asked about Russian oil purchases.

Trump said Xi has been "buying oil from Russia for a long time. It takes care of a big part of China. And, you know, I can say India's been very good on that front. But we didn't really discuss the oil. We discussed working together to see if we could get that war finished."

Trump has been claiming for the past few days that Delhi has assured him that it will significantly reduce its oil imports from Russia.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has said that India is a significant importer of oil and gas, and it has been Delhi's consistent priority to safeguard the interests of the Indian consumer in a volatile energy scenario.



BOEING JUST REPORTED ANOTHER MASSIVE LOSS. IT STILL MIGHT BE ITS BEST WEEK IN MORE THAN SIX YEARS

Diary Times Desk :

Boeing reported yet another massive quarterly loss Wednesday. It could still be an extremely good week to be Boeing.

That's because the US planemaker could finally get a huge order from Chinese airlines, a market that the company has been frozen out for nearly a decade.

Boeing is reportedly close to reaching a deal that could result in as many as 500 jet orders from Chinese airlines in the coming days or weeks, possibly as soon as President Donald Trump meets with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in South Korea on Thursday, according to multiple outlets. Deals of this magnitude, which require the approval of the Chinese government and not just the airlines, have often been announced when the leaders of the two countries met face-to-face.

And US Ambassador to China David Purdue told reporters and visiting members of Congress last month that negotiations for a "huge" deal are close to conclusion.

DARTMOUTH BASKETBALL'S UNION VOTE IS JUST A SMALL PART OF THE CAMPUS ORGANIZING WAVE

Diary Times Desk :

If you want to find the most new union members, don't go to a Starbucks or an Amazon warehouse, despite the high profile organizing wins unions have achieved with those employers in recent years. Head to college and university campuses.

The Dartmouth College men's basketball team achieved a significant milestone last week when they became the first college athletes to vote to join a union. But they are only a small part of a much larger trend – that of college and graduate students voting in big numbers to join unions in their on-campus jobs. Organizing vote wins in higher education have added more new union members than in any other sector of the economy in recent years.

FED CHAIR POWELL SAYS DON'T COUNT ON A DECEMBER RATE CUT

Diary Times Desk :

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday lowered interest rates for the second time this year in a continued bid to prevent unemployment from surging.

But another rate cut at the next meeting in December "is not a forgone conclusion," Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in a news conference, adding there were "strongly differing views" among policymakers on how to move forward.

Fed officials voted for another quarter-point rate cut, lowering their benchmark lending rate to a range between 3.75% and 4%, the lowest in three years.

Wednesday's decision drew two dissents; one from Fed Governor Stephen Miran, who backed a larger, half-point cut; and another from Kansas City Fed President Jeffrey Schmid, who preferred to hold borrowing costs steady.

It is the first time since 2019 that there were dueling dissents – both calling for easier and tighter policy – underscoring the heated debate among officials over how President Donald Trump's sweeping policies on trade, immigration and spending are affecting the US economy.



THE US AND CHINA ARE CLOSE TO A LANDMARK TRADE AGREEMENT. HERE ARE THE WILDEST MOMENTS LEADING UP TO IT

Diary Times Desk :

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are about to meet in person for the first time in six years. The meeting in South Korea comes after months of intense back-and-forths between the leaders of the world's two largest economies. At one point, the spat led to tariffs on Chinese goods surging to a minimum of 145% and at least 130% on American goods.

Even though tariff rates on both countries' goods have since come down, they're still higher than where they were before Trump's second term began. And it's never been out of the question that tariffs could skyrocket again, with trade agreements brokered by American and Chinese negotiators practically hanging by a thread.

So, how did we get here? Keep scrolling for a recap of the dizzying back-and-forth between the US and China – and where things stand for now.



MONEY MOVES TO MAKE NOW THAT THE FED HAS CUT RATES

Diary Times Desk : For the second time this year, the Federal Reserve on Wednesday decided to lower its key interest rate by a quarter of a percentage point.

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell noted during a briefing with reporters on Wednesday that it is not a foregone conclusion that the central bank will opt for third rate cut this year at its upcoming December meeting.

For now, though, the Fed's move on Wednesday will affect various consumer savings and lending rates throughout the economy.

How? In brief, it may make it a little harder – but still possible – to find attractive, inflation-beating yields for your savings if you comparison shop. And on your debts, the Fed's moves may save you some money but not nearly as much as your taking advantage of other options. More on all that below.

Even if the rates available today move down a bit given the Fed's latest move, there are still plenty of low-risk options that let you grow your savings and protect your purchasing power.



WHAT ARE RARE EARTH MINERALS, AND WHY ARE THEY CENTRAL TO TRUMP'S TRADE DEAL WITH CHINA?

Diary Times Desk :

The US trade deal with China seeks to resolve a major sticking point of their ongoing trade war: rare-earth minerals.

Despite multiple rounds of talks with US trade negotiators over the past several months, China continued to slow-walk promises to the Trump administration that it would free up crucial rare-earth metals, and earlier guarantees of expedited rare-earth licenses to US companies never materialized. Beijing even tightened earlier this month its controls by massively expanding its restrictions.

Under Thursday's deal, China agreed to roll back those newly imposed rules, though the initial restrictions unveiled in April appear to remain in place.

The tussle over rare earths precedes the current administration; China for years has built up near-total control of the minerals as part of its wider industrial policy.

IT'S BETTER TO BE RICH THAN RIGHT

Diary Times Desk :

Once upon a time, all of us were taught the story of the Emperor's New Clothes and its unambiguous lesson about calling out the truth when it's right in front of your eyes. The emperor was not, in fact, clad in the finest suit. The emperor was naked, a fool who'd been had. The moral was, more or less: Don't be a mark, like the emperor who got swindled by couture con artists. Be the kid in the crowd who called the naked man out for being naked.

But it really changes the story if you note that everyone stood to get rich – really rich – if everyone agreed to just go along with it, because hey, the Emperor's had some pretty nice clothes in the past, so who's to say if his new duds don't look as nice?

In short: Wall Street, writ large, has put business fundamentals in a corner and has settled into a kind of cynical vibe-trading in which the goal is always "number go up."

Consider Tesla, a stock so detached from the company's actual business some analysts call it the "OG meme stock."

TRUMP'S BIG CONCESSION TO XI IS LOADED WITH RED FLAGS



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump made an extraordinary concession in his landmark deal with Chinese leader Xi Jinping Thursday: In exchange for promises that China will crack down on fentanyl, the United States will shave 10% off the tariffs it charges on Chinese goods.

On the surface, it's a promising deal that could restore some of the trade that tariffs had stymied between the world's two largest economies. The reduction will bring the minimum tariff on Chinese imports down to 20%, and the average tariff rate will fall to around 47%. That's lofty compared to many other US trading partners but still more in line with the rest of the world.

It could give some relief to US consumers, and it means Chinese goods can shed the outcast status in the United States that Trump's high tariffs had imposed on them. But the tariff reduction is also a significant gamble for the Trump administration, which has encountered a persistent problem in its unprecedented trade war with China: Trump has been bested by Xi in the trade war at every turn.

CRUSHED BY PUNISHING US SANCTIONS, RUSSIA'S LUKOIL ACCEPTS OFFER TO SELL ITS INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



Diary Times Desk : Lukoil said Thursday it had accepted an offer from global commodity trader Gunvor to buy its foreign assets, which Russia's second-largest oil company is seeking to sell after Washington imposed sanctions on it last week.

The planned asset sale is the most consequential action so far by a Russian company resulting from Western sanctions imposed over the war in Ukraine, which began with Russia's 2022 full-scale invasion of its neighbor.

Lukoil said in a statement it had accepted an offer from Gunvor to sell Lukoil International GmbH, which controls the oil major's foreign assets.

"The key terms of the transaction have been earlier agreed by the parties. On its side, (Lukoil) accepted the offer, having undertaken not to negotiate with other potential buyers," Lukoil said of Gunvor's offer. Gunvor confirmed it was in talks with Lukoil over the possible acquisition of its foreign assets.

Gunvor uses post-2022 profits to fund acquisitions

The U.S. Treasury Department has issued a license giving companies until November 21 to wind down any transactions with Lukoil and Rosneft, another Russian energy firm targeted by the new round of sanctions.

"If necessary, the parties plan to apply for an extension of the current license," Lukoil said.

The deal is subject to permission from the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, it added.

Gunvor rose to prominence in the 2000s as the world's biggest trader in Russian oil.

Its shareholders at the time included Gennady Timchenko, a close ally of President Vladimir Putin, who sold his stake in Gunvor after the U.S. targeted him with sanctions following Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea.

GOVERNMENT FORMULATING POLICY TO PROMOTE TOURISM DURING MONSOON:

DHARMANI

Diary Times Desk : The state government is formulating a special plan to promote tourism during the monsoon season. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu is poised to develop a comprehensive Monsoon Tourism Policy aimed at turning the season into a vibrant tourism phase, said Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani while addressing mediapersons after taking stock of the arrangements for the 'Bilaspur Aqua Fest-2025' on Tuesday.

Dharmani said that Bilaspur town would host the three-day 'Bilaspur Aqua Fest-2025' from November 21. He added that the district administration, in collaboration with the Himachal Pradesh Tourism Department and the Sports Authority of India, would organise the water sports festival. The event would take place across the Gobind Sagar Lake stretch from the Luhnu Ghat ground to the Mandi-Bharari bridge.

He said that the three-day water sports carnival would present a unique blend of adventure, excitement and entertainment. It would feature a range of thrilling competitions, including kayaking and canoeing, country boating, swimming, still water rafting and feel-free kayaking. He added that over 200 participants from various states, schools, colleges, universities and sports associations were expected to take part in the event.

SHIMLA DISTRICT COURT REJECTS WAQF BOARD AND MOSQUE COMMITTEE'S PLEAS

Diary Times Desk : The district court in Shimla today rejected the appeal for Himachal Pradesh Waqf Board and the Sanjauli Mosque Committee and has directed to demolish all the floors of the mosque.

The orders were passed by Additional District and Sessions Judge Yajuvinder Singh. During the hearing, the decision of Commissioner's Court was upheld by the court, which had directed the parties to demolish of the remaining two floors of the mosque.

VEHICLE-LINKED SERVICES GO ONLINE IN PUNJAB, CM TERMS MOVE END OF

GRAFT ERA

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Wednesday launched an initiative providing vehicle-related services online and at Sewa Kendras in Punjab.

With this initiative, 56 services – including making of driving licences, vehicle registration certificates (RCs), fitness tests and challan payments – will now be accessible through 544 Sewa Kendras or the 1076 helpline.

According to officials, people will no longer be required to visit Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) or cyber cafés for documentation and verification, a process that previously involved multiple visits and long queues.

Symbolically locking a transport office, Mann declared that it ended the era marked by corruption, involvement of middlemen and bureaucratic inconvenience.



THE 'UBER DRIVER IS HERE' JIBE THAT FUELLED DILJIT DOSANJH'S RECORD-BREAKING SUCCESS IN AUSTRALIA

Diary Times Desk : Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh has made history by becoming the first Indian artist to sell out an entire stadium in Sydney, Australia. His AURA world tour concert, attended by nearly 30,000 fans, was a massive success, with ticket prices reaching as high as \$800. However, the singer's Australian escapade wasn't without its challenges. Diljit Dosanjh faced racism upon his arrival in Australia, with some people calling saying "The new Uber driver is here, or the new 7-11 employee has landed.." the comments section of paparazzi photos.

"I think the world should be one and there should be no borders," he said, emphasizing unity and respect for all professions. "I don't mind being compared to a cab or truck driver. If truck drivers cease to exist, you won't get bread for your home. I'm not angry, and my love goes out to everyone, even the ones who say things like that about me."

Diljit Dosanjh's Sydney show marks a significant milestone in the global recognition of Indian music. With his AURA tour, he has proven himself to be a talented and resilient artist who can captivate audiences worldwide.

PUNJAB GOVT REMOVES A K SINHA AS CHAIRMAN-CUM-MD OF PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD

CORPORATION LTD

Diary Times Desk : Punjab government today removed senior IAS officer A K Sinha as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL), and Punjab State Power Transmission Corporation, and appointed Dr Basant Garg as the new CMD.

The change in guard in the Power Department comes at a time when the state government is actively contemplating liquidation of the land owned by PSPCL, in a bid to earn the much needed revenue. All ranks of employees unions in the state power utilities have been opposing the move.

Sinha has not been given any posting and joins the list of officers who have remained without posting for months now. In the orders issued today, the 1996-batch IAS officer has been asked to report to the department of Personnel. The orders, issued by Chief Secretary K A P Sinha, state that new posting orders of Ajoy Kumar Sinha will be issued later.

YOUR HOROSCOPE 31-10-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

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

Scorpio

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

Sagittarius

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

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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

THREE MORE ARRESTED IN REWARI EXTORTION CASE

Diary Times Desk : The local police have arrested three more suspects in a case involving extortion and criminal intimidation of a transporter. The main accused in the case had been apprehended earlier. The police also paraded the accused in the city.

Those arrested include Ravinder of Rajasthan, Manoj and Hansraj of Rewari district. Earlier, Ravinder, alias Ravi of Rewari, was arrested in the case that was registered at the Model Town police station on the complaint of local transporter Harish Kumar of Bawal town here.

In his complaint, Harish said he had a transport office in Rewari city. His vehicles and buses were used to transport staff for companies. On October 26, a young man along with three others carrying gun-like weapons came to his office in a Scorpio vehicle.

WASTE BURNING ADDS TO GURUGRAM'S AIR WOES AMID RISING POLLUTION

Diary Times Desk : While stubble burning often takes the blame for the plummeting air quality in Delhi-NCR, localised waste fires are fast emerging as a major pollution source in Gurugram, leaving residents gasping for breath.

With waste management still a major challenge across the city, several individuals and organised groups have reportedly been setting garbage piles on fire to clear them. According to multiple agencies — including the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), Manesar Municipal Council (MCM), fire department and police — over 300 waste fires have been reported this month alone.

The result has been a sharp spike in AQI levels, especially in New Gurugram and Manesar, where residents say they wake up to an acrid smell and are forced to use wet towels to counter smoke. More than 35 areas have been identified as high-risk, witnessing such incidents almost every alternate day.

BODY OF HISAR MAN KILLED IN RUSSIA WAR ARRIVES HOME

Diary Times Desk : The body of 28-year-old Sonu, a resident of Madanheri village in Hisar district, who was killed in the Russia-Ukraine war, reached his native village on Wednesday, plunging the residents into grief.

Sonu was accorded a military-style funeral at the village cremation ground as hundreds gathered to pay their respects, chanting "Shaheed Sonu Amar Rahe". His body, sent by Russian authorities along with military gear, was handed over to the family in the presence of local officials. Villagers recalled Sonu as a simple, hardworking youth who had remained in touch despite facing distressing circumstances abroad.

His uncle Jagbir Singh said Sonu had last called home on September 3, revealing that he had been forcibly recruited into the Russian army and sent to the war front. "He told us he was not willing to fight but was compelled to join. That was the last we heard from him," he said.



POLICEMAN SACKED OVER BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS IN PANCHKULA CALL CENTRE SCAM

Diary Times Desk : A police officer in Haryana has been dismissed from service after allegations emerged of his involvement in a protection racket connected to a major fake call centre scam operating out of Panchkula. The action, taken by senior police authorities, follows a probe into alleged illegal activity by Assistant Sub-Inspector Satish, who was stationed at the cybercrime police facility in Panchkula.

"He was posted in Jind and dismissed from the job by the Jind SP," said Panchkula Police Commissioner Sibash Kabiraj in a video message. Kabiraj specifically clarified on X that investigations were under way as fake WhatsApp forwards were disseminating wrong information which was jeopardising Panchkula Police's reputation among general public.

The officer stands accused of demanding money from owners of illicit call centres, which were recently uncovered and raided by a joint team from the Panchkula Police and Haryana Police. Investigators have revealed that Satish allegedly demanded protection payments to turn a blind eye to their crimes.

MANESAR LAND SCAM: HC RESERVES VERDICT ON BHUPINDER HOODA'S PLEA AGAINST CBI COURT'S ORDER

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court today reserved its verdict on a petition filed by a former CM, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, in the alleged Manesar land scam.

Hooda has challenged the order of the special CBI court, Panchkula, which rejected his plea to suspend the trial in the case, paving the way for the framing of charges against him and other accused. The petition filed by Hooda seeks the quashing of the order dated September 19 passed by the special CBI judge. The court had rejected his plea and also directed the framing of charges on the next date of hearing.

Hooda argued that the trial court's decision to frame charges was invalid, as the Supreme Court had stayed proceedings against some co-accused. Therefore, framing the charges against the other accused would amount to "splitting the trial into separate parts", which was invalid.

JUSTICE SURYA KANT APPOINTED NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA, TO TAKE CHARGE ON NOVEMBER 24

Diary Times Desk : President Droupadi Murmu on Thursday appointed Justice Surya Kant — the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court — as the next Chief Justice of India (CJI).

"In exercise of the powers conferred by the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Surya Kant, Judge of the Supreme Court of India as the Chief Justice of India with effect from 24th November, 2025. I convey my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to him," Union Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal said in a post on X.

Chief Justice of India BR Gavai had on Monday recommended Justice Kant for appointment as his successor and the 53rd CJI.

Justice Kant succeeds CJI Gavai who is due to retire on November 23 on attaining the age of 65.

Justice Kant will be administered the oath of office on November 24 and he will hold the office for nearly 15 months till February 9, 2027.



EDITORIAL

These Accessories Are Made From Exotic Invasive Animals

Leather has been a staple of human fashion for millennia, but the fashion industry is increasingly embracing more sustainable alternatives.

Traditional leather comes mainly from cows, and cattle farming is linked to deforestation, habitat loss and land degradation. The tanning process is polluting and can use up to 50,000 liters (13,209 gallons) of water for each ton of raw animal hides.

Vegan and lab-grown leathers are on the rise, but one US company is supplying fashion houses with the real thing — only rather than using cattle, it's sourced from invasive exotic animals.

Pythons from Florida's Greater Everglades, silverfin carp from the Mississippi River Basin and lionfish from Caribbean reefs are the three alien invasive species that Miami-based startup

Inversa currently harvests.

The leather it produces is eventually turned into products such as clothing, bags and other accessories by fashion brands such as Gabriela Hearst, Khaite, Catherine Holstein and Johanna Ortiz.

"This all starts with a fish," said Inversa CEO Aarav Chavda, who co-founded the company in 2020. "I've

been a scuba diver for almost 15 years now, and I've just been obsessed with the problem of the invasive lionfish and what it's doing to coral reefs throughout the Caribbean and the Mediterranean — taking a sledgehammer to native biodiversity on those reefs. Invasive species are animals and plants that are introduced due to human activity to an area where they are not native. They end up harming the local ecosystem, for example by eating native species, spreading disease or outcompeting other organisms for food or resources. They can cause extinctions and irreversible damage to the environment.

"My co-founders and I firmly believed that one way to solve this problem was to tap into the power of the consumer," Chavda added. "We then zeroed in on the fashion industry — it really wants to do better and it's looking for healthier and more sustainable feedstock materials. We ended up turning the lionfish into leather, and that was the genesis of this wonderful idea. I'm here to make a structural impact on invasives, which the UN considers to be a top five driver of biodiversity loss."

Invasive menace

After an initial focus on the lionfish, Inversa started harvesting silverfin, a carp native to China that was imported in the US in the 1970s, mostly to control algae in municipal sewage lagoons. However, it soon escaped into the wild: "In the Mississippi river ecosystem it's completely decimating native biodiversity," Chavda said. "It consumes an unbelievable amount of native vegetation and biomass and it's now in several US states — it's a major problem." The Burmese python soon followed: "It's a constrictor snake originally from Southeast Asia, which was released into the Florida Everglades in the 1990s," Chavda said. The snakes, likely from the pet trade, quickly multiplied and turned into super-predators, leading to the collapse of the populations of native mammals like raccoons, opossums and bobcats.



Jacopo Prisco

Chavda noted the tanning process is different from using cow hide — especially for fish skin, which is made up of very thin but also very strong fibers.

India Must Act Strategically

US-CHINA TRADE TENSIONS: AN INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Indian exporters are expected to benefit significantly from the escalating trade tensions between the US and China. Experts say that the US's imposition of an additional 100 per cent tariff on Chinese goods will increase demand for Indian products in the American market bringing the total import duty to approximately 130%. This move is in response to China's rare earth export ban on October 9. These rare earth materials are vital to the US defense, electric vehicle, and clean energy sectors. The extra tariff on Chinese goods, effective from November 1, 2025, presents a substantial and multifaceted state of affairs for India. On one hand, it opens up considerable opportunities for Indian exporters; on the other hand, it also brings probable risks that need vigilant supervision. A major opportunity for India



Dr. Hari Chand Thakur

China may dump excess supply in India at reduced prices, which will further affect India's domestic manufacturers and MSMEs. Though India can compete with China in finished products but India also relies on raw material, intermediate products, and critical components (e.g., Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), electronic components, solar cells).



India has the infrastructural and logistical constraints to absorb the increasing opportunities. Issues like port bottlenecks, transport congestion, and inconsistent power supply could limit India's capacity to fully capitalise on this opportunity.

Organizations (FIEO) President SC Raihan said that the US tax hike will provide a major opportunity for India. He pointed out that India exported goods worth \$86 billion to the US in 2024-25, and this number has the potential to grow substantially as US buyers actively seek alternatives to Chinese suppliers, from costlier to cheaper Indian goods. Indian goods will gain immediate competitiveness in the US market as the potential total tariff of 130 per cent on Chinese goods will make them costlier than Indian goods, which currently face a lower tariff than Chinese goods. Sectors where China was the dominant supplier to the US, such as textiles, electronics, toys, and footwear, are sure to benefit the most. American companies are approaching Indian

suppliers. Currently, US tax rates are 50 per cent on Indian products and 30 per cent on Chinese products. A textile exporter said that Indian goods will now gain an advantage in the US as Chinese products will become more expensive. The increased demand aligns with India's Make in India initiative and Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes, which will further speed up the home manufacturing capabilities and create jobs for Indians. The US is also looking the ways to reduce its dependency on China. India is seen as a workable, democratic, and strategic alternative to China to strengthen the bilateral relationship. The ongoing negotiations between India and the US for a bilateral trade agreement could gain thrust, and the US may offer reduced tariffs to India to secure it as a reliable long-term supply chain partner. This move could raise the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) to India as Indian can position itself as an attractive destination for this.

The think tank GTRI stated in its report that this tariff war could lead to global increases in the prices of electric vehicles, wind turbines, and semiconductor parts. The inflation could dampen total consumer demand globally, thereby leading to a decrease in Indian exports. The supply chain disruption may lead to a global trade war. INFA

Cracker Emissions And Their Impact On Air Quality

BREATHING FIREWORKS: THE HIDDEN COST OF OUR FESTIVE JOY

As the lights of Diwali fade and dawn breaks, the air tells a different story. A grey haze hangs low over our cities, the faint smell of burnt gunpowder lingering long after the festivities end. For a few hours of dazzling fireworks, we pay a heavy price, one that we continue to inhale for days. Every year, India celebrates the festival of lights with unmatched fervour. Streets glow with diyas, homes sparkle with decorations, and the sky bursts into colour. Yet, behind this beauty lies an uncomfortable truth: the very fireworks that symbolize joy and victory are now choking our air and our lungs.

Dr. Sunny Dhiman

Technology, art, and tradition can blend beautifully when guided by conscience. At the heart of Diwali is the victory of good over evil, of light over darkness. In a modern context, that moral message must extend to our relationship with nature. True celebration should not leave our air poisoned, our skies grey, and our children coughing.

But air pollution after Diwali is not merely a scientific concern; it is a social and moral one. The people most affected are often those least responsible — children, the elderly, outdoor workers, and the urban poor who cannot escape to cleaner air. A child celebrating on a terrace may feel momentary joy, but another child, struggling to breathe a few kilometres away, pays the price. The beauty of our traditions should not come at the cost of others' health and dignity. Many argue that the problem is exaggerated — that Diwali fireworks account for only a few days of pollution each year. But that argument misses the point. Diwali coincides with the season of crop residue burning, stagnant wind conditions, and increasing vehicular emissions. Fireworks act as an environmental amplifier, worsening an already toxic cocktail of pollutants. The result is a short but severe pollution episode that pushes cities beyond their ecological limits.

The introduction of so-called "green crackers" was hailed as a step forward, but their impact has been minimal. Studies show that while they emit around 30% fewer pollutants than traditional fireworks, their widespread availability, labelling inconsistency, and enforcement gaps have made little difference on the ground. Moreover, many

consumers remain unaware — or unconvinced — of their supposed benefits. A more honest conversation is needed about how "green" these alternatives truly are.

The challenge, therefore, is not just technological but cultural. Fireworks have become synonymous with celebration and victory in India — from cricket matches to weddings. Banning them outright, as courts have repeatedly attempted, often sparks public backlash and defiance. The way forward lies not in prohibition alone but in persuasion — a shift in how we define joy and festivity. Communities, religious organizations, and schools must play a central role in reimagining Diwali as a festival of light, not smoke. Some cities around the world offer hopeful examples. In Sydney, Singapore, and Dubai, large-scale public light and laser shows have replaced fireworks during major celebrations, drawing equal crowds without harming the air. India too can innovate — with drone light displays, synchronized diya events, and neighbourhood-level clean-air pledges.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PALMER FAMILY COLLECTION OF ASIAN ART

Diary Times Desk : In a corner of Reading Museum, about an hour west of London, is a group of unusual antique biscuit tins that tell a story of one local family's extraordinary passion. Each resembles a traditional Chinese work of art. One look likes cloisonné enamel, featuring a bird-and-flower design on a turquoise ground. Another recalls a vase decorated with famille verte panels. A third depicts white prunus blossom against a blue cracked-ice background.

They were all manufactured by biscuit makers Huntley & Palmers, established in 1822. After becoming the first baker to mechanise production, the business was known as 'The Most Famous Biscuit Company in the World', at its height employing 8,000 staff and serving no fewer than 137 countries. And with the proceeds, the Palmer family funded their obsession with Chinese works of art, amassing one of the greatest collections Britain had ever seen.

Until 12 November 2025, Art of Asia Including the Palmer Family Collection — Online offers more than 100 objects and artworks from the collection, spanning the Song (960-1279), Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

'During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, there was a collecting mania for Chinese art in the UK,' explains Kate Hunt, head of Chinese Ceramics and Works of Art at Christie's in London.

'It was fuelled by highly educated, scholarly collectors, who had access to incredible things, the likes of which would never be available now. Three generations of the Palmer family were key figures in this movement, and their collection is the last great English example that I know of in private hands.'

It was begun by William Howard Palmer (1865-1923) — the nephew of the company's founder — and his wife Ada (1870-1953). Their collection passed to their only son, Reginald Howard Reed Palmer (1898-1970), who, together with his wife Lena (1900-1981), added the greatest number of pieces.

In 1989, 19 lots were offered in Important Early Ming Blue and White Porcelain from the Collection of the Late Mr and Mrs R.H.R. Palmer — one of the first auctions of a private collection at Christie's new salerooms in Hong Kong. Among the items were a Chenghua 'Palace' bowl and a Xuande-marked blue-and-white double gourd flask.



THE ART OF SALOUA RAOUDA CHOUCAIR: 'SHE HAD THAT MODERNIST SENSE OF THE FUTURE AND WANTED US TO LEAP INTO IT'

Diary Times Desk : In 1951, a young Lebanese woman studying in Paris was provoked into writing to the literary critic Musa Sulaiman: 'Having read your book and taken note of your personal opinions... I am prompted to make a few observations that may have some benefit.' What followed was a five-page discourse on art from a Middle Eastern perspective. The text, titled 'How the Arab Understood Visual Art', became, somewhat unexpectedly for the writer, the basis of a radical Arab modernism.

Today, Saloua Raouda Choucair is considered a forerunner of abstraction in the Middle East. Back in the 1950s, however, she was an unknown painter working in the studio of Fernand Léger. Strong-willed and highly intelligent, she had arrived in Paris in 1948 'with a fully formed idea of the art she wanted to make', says her daughter, the artist Hala Schoukair.

Born into a well-to-do family of Druze intellectuals in Beirut in 1916, Saloua Raouda Choucair was the youngest of three children. Her father, a pharmacist, died of typhoid when Choucair was a year old, so it was her mother, the headstrong Zalfa, who encouraged her children's interests. At the American Junior College for Women (later the Beirut College for Women), Choucair studied natural sciences, and it is tempting to see traces of the geometry of nature and its rhythms in the interlocking forms and patterns of her later sculptures. It was on a trip to Egypt during the Second World War that Choucair became absorbed by Islamic architecture and design, and these formed the foundations of her theory that the origins of non-objective art lay not in Europe, but in the Arab world. 'Kandinsky's studies of the point and the line,' she noted, 'are studies that the Muslim artist undertook in the first century.'

In Beirut, she took art classes with the Lebanese painter Omar Onsi, then moved to Paris to study at the conservative Ecole des Beaux-Arts. However, she was drawn to the Left Bank bohemia of Sonia Delaunay, Nelly van Doesburg and a group of ambitious young painters, such as Victor Vasarely and Jean Dewasne, who assembled at the Atelier d'Art Abstrait.

She met Le Corbusier and was taken by his scrupulous observance of the laws of perspective in his modular architecture. Inspired by his democratic approach to living, she resolved to shake off the last vestiges of her classical art education. 'She returned to Beirut and really isolated herself,' says Hala. 'She experimented with every kind of material: wood, metal, enamel, marble, fibreglass, plastic — even carpet. But eventually clay became her favourite. It served as her notebook — she could play around with it.'



BARCELONA LONG-TERM INJURY ABSENTEE RESUMES ON-PITCH TRAINING



Diary Times Desk : As FC Barcelona continued preparations for this weekend's La Liga game against Elche, they have been greeted with mixed news in training.

Wednesday brought about the heartbreaking development of Pedri suffering an injury which will keep him out for more than a month.

At the same time, Robert Lewandowski and Dani Olmo have resumed group training and might even receive their medical clearance in time for Sunday's match.

Ter Stegen back training on the grass

Now, in another positive development, SPORT reports that Barcelona goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen has begun light training on the pitch as he continues to recover from back surgery performed on 25 July in Bordeaux.

The 33-year-old club captain has been sidelined with a long-term injury, estimated to require around four months of recovery, meaning he is still expected to need at least another month before becoming available to Hansi Flick.

HANSI FLICK'S NEW STRATEGY TO PREVENT FURTHER INJURIES AT BARCELONA – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona's 2025/26 season has quickly turned into a battle against injuries, and the latest blow comes in the form of Pedri's setback.

The midfield maestro has been ruled out for six to seven weeks, just as Hansi Flick was beginning to welcome back some of his previously injured stars.

For a team already stretched thin, losing Pedri at such a crucial time could hardly be worse news.

As reported by Mundo Deportivo, Flick is determined to break this worrying pattern.

In order to do that, the Barcelona coach has decided to introduce a more tailored approach to player management, one designed to cut down on the constant stream of injuries.

His plan focuses on giving players more control over their recovery, allowing them to rest when their bodies signal fatigue rather than pushing through. Earlier this week, Flick opted to grant Marcus Rashford, Frenkie de Jong, Jules Kounde, and Pau Cubarsi an extra day of rest.

BARCELONA RECEIVE PROPOSAL TO PLAY A FRIENDLY MATCH IN MOROCCO – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Following the cancellation of the proposal to play their La Liga fixture against Villarreal in the US, FC Barcelona were exploring the possibility of playing a friendly in Peru in the month of December.

While it would fetch a revenue of around €7-8 million for the Catalans, recent reports suggested that there were hurdles in the plan going ahead due to multiple factors.

Offer to play in Morocco
However, now, according to SPORT, Barcelona have received a proposal to play a friendly match in Morocco.

The offer reached the club's offices in recent days, although it is not currently being seriously considered. Head coach Hansi Flick will have the final say on the matter. As per the report, the proposal, under review by Barcelona, suggests that the mid-season friendly would only take place if the Catalans were to be eliminated in the Round of 16 of the Champions League or an earlier stage.

BARCELONA TRAINING UPDATE: KEY DUO COMPLETE GROUP SESSION BUT DEFENDER ABSENT

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona continued their preparations for the upcoming match against Elche at the Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper today.

Despite the setback of losing the team's midfield linchpin, Pedri, to an injury, manager Hansi Flick is gradually recovering key players.

Lewandowski, Olmo complete group training
Indeed, in a major positive, Mundo Deportivo reports that Robert Lewandowski and Dani Olmo, both still awaiting medical clearance, trained normally with the group on Thursday.

Both Lewandowski and Olmo returned with injuries from the Poland and Spain national teams, respectively, during the international break earlier this month.

The key duo's recovery has progressed very well, though, with Lewandowski rejoining team training at the start of the week and Olmo jumping in on Wednesday.

Now, both have completed a full session with the rest of the squad today and await medical clearance ahead of Sunday's match vs Elche.

LIONEL MESSI REFLECTS ON BUSQUETS AND ALBA'S RETIREMENTS – 'WE WERE ALWAYS IN HARMONY'

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona legend Lionel Messi may now be shining in the United States with Inter Miami, but his heart clearly remains tied to the Catalan giants where his story began.

Recently, the Argentine icon confirmed his contract renewal with Inter Miami until 2028, ensuring his stay in Major League Soccer for the foreseeable future.

Yet, amid this new chapter, Messi finds himself reflecting deeply on the passing of an era that was built in Barcelona's golden years.

In an exclusive interview with Fabrizio Romano for Apple TV's MLS Season Pass, Messi opened up about the retirements of his two closest companions from his time at Barça – Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba.

The trio shared countless historic moments in the Blaugrana shirt, forming the backbone of the side that dominated world football under Pep Guardiola and beyond.

After reuniting in Miami, their careers will now take separate paths.

BARCELONA LOANEE COMPARES DIFFERENCE IN HIS ROLE UNDER FLICK AND CURRENT MANAGER – 'AT BARÇA...'

Diary Times Desk : Sunday, November 2, will mark a particularly emotional day for Inaki Pena, as he faces his parent club FC Barcelona while wearing the colours of Elche.

The young goalkeeper, who came through Barça's academy, is set to play against the team that shaped his footballing career, a moment that carries both pride and nostalgia.

Following Barcelona's decision to sign Joan Garcia in the summer, competition in the goalkeeping department intensified.

With limited opportunities ahead, Pena opted for a season-long loan move to Elche in search of regular minutes, a decision that has so far paid off for his development.

Now, as he prepares to line up against the Blaugrana, the 26-year-old has shared his thoughts on both his former club and his current situation.

Speaking to the media ahead of the clash, Pena reflected on Barcelona's recent 1-2 defeat to Real Madrid, describing it as "a double-edged sword."

He believes the loss could serve as motivation for the Catalans, who have had "a clean week" to prepare for Sunday's encounter. Despite their injury troubles, Pena expects Barça to respond strongly.

