## DIARY TIMES



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#### NEWS IN BRIEF HARYANA TEEN ON 'DUNKI' DASH TO US KILLED BY TRAFFICKERS IN **GUATEMALA**

**Diary Times Desk:**A Haryana teenager who set out for the United States last October through the treacherous route in search of a job has been killed after allegedly being held captive by human captive by traffickers Guatemala, his family members claimed on Saturday.

The family of Yuvraj (18), son of an agriculturist from Mohna village in Kaithal, learned of his death a few days ago when one of the "donkers" sent them a death certificate and photos of him and another youth from Punjab, claiming both had been killed, his maternal uncle Gurpej Singh told PTI over the

phone. He explained that 'donkers' is a term for used human operate illegal migration routes, during which some travellers often are mistreated.

Gurpej said that Yuvraj, who passed his Class 12 exam, was eager to support his family and hoped to find a job once he reached the Three Haryanabased travel agents had taken large sums of money from the family, promising a safe journey through other contacts in their

#### INDIA EXCLUDES CHINA, TURKEY FROM MAJOR NAVAL EXERCISE, 55 OTHER COUNTRIES TO

#### PARTICIPATE Diary Times Desk : India has excluded

China from and Turkey major international naval exercise planned for 2026, as the Navy's Vice Chief issued a warning that Chinese vessel entering the Indian Ocean is under surveillance.

The decision to not invite the two nations to the International Fleet Review (IFR) is reportedly linked to their support for Pakistan during the India-Pakistan conflict at the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor earlier this "Each and every one

them, whether naval ships or research vessels, is under our watch," Navy vice chief vice admiral Sanjay Vatsayan said at a press briefing on Friday (October 31). "We are aware of their movements."

#### INDIAN **COMMERCE** MINISTER

### INDIA-US TRADE DEAL SOON? PIYUSH GOYAL SHARES BIG UPDATE



Diary Times Desk: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that New Delhi and Washington are in advanced stages of talks regarding the bilateral trade agreement. Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India and negotiations are still underway.

"We are at the advanced stage of discussions with both the EU and US for trade deals," said Piyush Goyal at the ET Startup Awards.

Last week, at the Berlin Global Dialogue, Goyal had said India will not do any deal in a hurry or with a "gun to our head"

An official had said last week that the proposed bilateral trade deal between India and the US is "very near" to concluding. "We are very near as far as the deal is concerned," the official said last week, as quoted by PTI.

The remarks by the Indian Commerce Minister come just after United States President Donald Trump indicated that the India-US

While speaking at the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) CEO Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, Trump had said that he had great "respect and love" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and that US is "doing a trade deal with India."

"If you look at India and Pakistan ... so, I'm doing a trade deal with India and I have great respect and love, as you know, for Prime Minister Modi, we have a great relationship," Trump said earlier this week.

Trump's comment came at a time when the relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe strain after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including an additional 25 per cent levies for its procurement of Russian crude oil. India described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable".

#### EXPLAINER: WHY DARBAR MOVE HAS JAMMU ENTHUSED

Diary Times Desk: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah made the announcement about restoring the Darbar move — the shifting of government offices to Srinagar and Jammu for a duration of six months each — on October 16, the day he completed a year in office. It marked fulfilling a key manifesto promise of the ruling National Conference during the Assembly polls held last year.

The practice, started by Dogra ruler Ranbir Singh in 1872, was not just symbolic. The Darbar move had socio-economic and political significance too. It was meant to ensure administrative presence in both the regions as well as avoiding the harsh winter of Kashmir and the scorching summer of Jammu.

Government offices used to function from Jammu during the winter season and for six months from Srinagar during summer. One of the arguments given by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for scrapping the 150-year-old biannual exercise in 2021 was that the administration had taken concrete steps to promote e-office working by digitising records. The annual expenditure of over Rs 200 crore was also taken into consideration records. The annual expenditure of over its 200 crore was also taken into consideration. In 2020, the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, while disposing of a public interest litigation, asked the Central and UT governments to take a decision on continuing the practice that involved spending of over Rs 200 crore. The Bench stated that the money, resources and time consumed in shifting of offices could be utilised towards the welfare and development of the UT.



#### IS EVERY LAWYER AN **ADVOCATE? SUPREME COURT ANSWERS**



Diary Times Desk: When the Supreme Court held recently that in-house lawyers are not "advocates" under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), it was not merely deciding a procedural point about professional privilege. It was restating a foundational distinction in the Indian legal profession - one that separates legal education from the legal profession, and a law degree from the right to practise law.

The judgment, authored by Justice K Vinod Chandran for a Bench led by Chief Vinod Chandran for a Bench led by Chief Justice BR Gavai, came in a suo motu case on the summoning of lawyers by investigating agencies. While the Court clarified that investigative agencies cannot summon advocates to elicit privileged communication with clients, it also turned its gaze inward, examining who precisely qualifies as an "advocate" under Indian law.

At the centre of that discussion lay a simple but loaded question - is every lawyer an advocate?

It said that persons with law degrees who work as salaried employees/legal advisors (termed as in-house counsel in legal circles) would not fall within the ambit of the term 'advocate'. Consequently, attorney-client privilege will not apply to

"In-house counsel will not be entitled to the privilege under Section 132 since they are not advocates practising in courts as spoken of in the BSA," the Bench said

That line, seemingly technical, revives a statutory divide that has existed since the enactment of the Advocates Act, 1961, but one which has blurred over time with the growth of corporate legal roles and compliance-based advisory work.

#### UNDERSTANDING WHY BIHAR IS A '36%' ELECTION



Diary Times Desk: In the 2015 Bihar assembly election Rashtriva Janata Dal (RJD) under the Mahagathbandhan (MGB). By 2020, he shifted back to the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA). An analysis of voting trends across these elections shows a distinct of voting trends across these elections shows a distinct voter pattern of loyalty – some communities continue to back political alliances, while others remain steadfastly loyal to individual leaders. Data indicates that both the MGB and the NDA retain solid core vote banks, but the decisive factor in the 2025 election is expected to be Bihar's largest social group, the Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs).

At the poles of Bihar's politics are two loyal blocs. The first is the upper castes, who make up 15.52% of the population and include Bhumihars (2.86%), Rajputs (3.45%), and Brahmins (3.66%). They were dominant until the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) broke the stranglehold of Bihar having upper caste chief ministers. The second are the Muslims

The 1990 assembly elections, fuelled by the rise of backward class politics, shattered the upper castes' decades-long stranglehold on Bihar's government, once a Congress fortress. Before this shift, most chief ministers were upper caste, from Shri Krishna Singh (Bhumihar) to the 1980's rotation between Jagannath Mishra (a Brahmin) and Satyendra Narayan Sinha (a Rajput). In contrast, OBC and Dalit leaders like Karpoori Thakur and Bhola Paswan Shastri had only brief, unstable stints.

#### A KOLKATA SCIENTIST CONDUCTED ARTIFICIAL RAIN DECADES BEFORE DELHI'S CLOUD-SEEDING ATTEMPT



Diary Times Desk : The much-talked-about artificial rainfall experiment by the Delhi government in partnership with IIT Kanpur wasn't India's first cloud-seeding attempt. A Kolkata scientist carried out a similar experiment — with nearly 100 per cent success — over seven decades ago.

Dr Sudhanshu Kumar Banerji, the first Indian director general of the India Meteorological Department, lovingly called "Megh (cloud) Banerji" by his close ones, made it rain over Kolkata in 1952 with limited resources at the College of Engineering and Technology,

In the early 1950s, when cloud seeding was still a new concept even in the United States, Banerji began studying it closely. He had observed early experiments during a visit to the US and believed the process could be adapted and made more cost-effective in India.

At Jadavpur, he designed his own tall glass cloud chamber to simulate rainfall in controlled conditions. "He spent nearly two years conducting experiments in that chamber before moving to outdoor trials," said his grandson Ranjan Banerji, now a 72-year-old engineering consultant and IIT Kanpur alumnus.

When the time came for field trials, hydrogen-filled balloons were fitted with small mechanisms that released silver iodide vapour, dry ice, and a controlled charge of gunpowder to disperse the seeding material. "He didn't have access to aircraft, so he improvised using balloons, which he was already familiar with from his meteorological work," Ranjan explained.

#### AADHAAR UPDATES TO BECOME FASTER, EASIER FROM NOVEMBER 1



Diary Times Desk: In a major update, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has made several significant changes that will make Aadhaar updates faster, easier, and completely digital. Starting November 1, 2025, people will be able to update key information like their name, address, date of birth, or mobile number online, eliminating the need to visit an enrolment centre or stand in long queues.

According to UIDAI, this move is part of an effort to make Aadhaar services more secure, user-friendly, and time efficient. Now, citizens can update their identity details from the comfort of their homes with just a few clicks.

Previously, corrections or updates required an in-person visit to an Aadhaar Seva Kendra, but with the new system, the entire process can be completed online.

As per the new guidelines, the government has made Aadhaar-PAN linking mandatory for all PAN holders by December 31, 2025. If one does not link it, the PAN card will be deactivated from January 1, 2026, and will become invalid for all tax and financial

### INDIGO JEDDAH-HYDERABAD FLIGHT RECEIVES HOAX BOMB THREAT, DIVERTED TO MUMBAI



Diary Times Desk: An IndiGo flight travelling from Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to Hyderabad was diverted to Mumbai after a bomb hoax that threatened a "1984 Madras airport-style blast". At Mumbai airport, necessary checks were conducted and all efforts were made to minimise inconvenience to the fliers, IndiGo said in a statement. "A security threat was received for IndiGo flight 6E 68 operating from Jeddah to Hyderabad on 1st November 2025 and the aircraft was diverted to Mumbai. Following the established protocol, we informed the relevant authorities immediately and fully cooperated with them in carrying out the necessary security checks before the aircraft is cleared for further operations," IndiGo said in the statement. According to aviation tracker flightradar24, the flight was to land in Hyderabad at 9.10 am, but was diverted to Mumbai after the threat. The flight took off after the checks and reached Hyderabad around 4 pm.

## TO CURB POLLUTION, NO ENTRY OF BS4 COMMERCIAL VEHICLES IN DELHI FROM TODAY

**Diary Times Desk:** In a major step to curb rising air pollution, the Delhi government has banned the entry of all commercial vehicles with BS4 (Bharat Stage 4) engines into the national capital starting today.

The decision, issued by the Delhi Transport Department under the directive of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), came into effect on November 1.

According to the new rule, only commercial vehicles equipped with BS6-compliant engines will be permitted entry into Delhi. The restriction applies to all categories, such as light, medium and heavy goods vehicles, if they operate on BS4 engines.

The move is aimed at combating the city's worsening air quality, which has reached hazardous levels in recent weeks.

### "SOCIETY HAS ACCEPTED": RSS LEADER ON MALLIKARJUN KHARGE'S "BAN" REMARK

**Diary Times Desk:** The face-off between the Congress and the BJP's ideological mentor Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, has escalated with party chief Mallikarjun Kharge's comment that the organisation should be banned. The RSS, which does not usually react to such statements, has responded saying the organisation has been "accepted" by the country.

"An organisation that works for the security, development, culture, unity of the country -- a political leader is asking for its ban. But he would not say why," said Dattatreya Hosabale of the RSS.

"He (Kharge) tried this earlier too. What was the result? The society has accepted the Sangh and the government has also concluded that the bans were illegal and decided accordingly. I think such a leader should take things in a sensitive manner," he added.

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had recently held the RSS and BJP responsible for the state of law and order. He said if Prime Minister Narendra Modi truly respects the views of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, he should take the decision to ban RSS, citing how Patel banned the organisation earlier.

### 98% OF DAMAGED POWER INFRASTRUCTURE RESTORED: MINISTER GOTTIPATI RAVI KUMAR

**Diary Times Desk:** Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar on Friday declared that over 98 per cent of power infrastructure damaged by Cyclone 'Montha' has been restored within 24 hours, crediting Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's proactive leadership and the relentless efforts of Electricity department staff.

Addressing a press conference, the Minister revealed the cyclone's devastating impact on the power grid.

Strong winds exceeding 80 kmph uprooted 12,500 electric poles, damaged 2,900 km of conductors, and affected nearly 3,000 transformers across coastal districts. Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, and Bapatla bore the brunt of the destruction, with falling trees and flooding compounding the crisis.

As a precautionary measure, power supply was temporarily suspended in high-rainfall zones like Nellore, Kavali, and Machilipatnam, and restored as soon as conditions stabilized. Pre-positioned stockpiles of poles and transformers enabled rapid response.



### MAMATA BANERJEE TO LEAD MEGA MARCH IN KOLKATA AGAINST SIR OF ELECTORAL ROLLS ON NOVEMBER 4

**Diary Times Desk:** CM Mamata Banerjee will lead a mega march in Kolkata on Tuesday, protesting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which will begin in the state on that day.

Banerjee, who heads the ruling TMC, will be joined by her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, the national general secretary of the party, in the rally.



### KOLKATA TO WITNESS LIGHT RAIN OVER THE WEEKEND, IMD PREDICTS MERCURY DROP AHEAD OF WINTER

**Diary Times Desk:** Kolkata and parts of south Bengal are likely to witness light to moderate rain or thundershowers on Saturday and Sunday as a low-pressure area, the remnant of Cyclone Montha, lingers over the region, as per the latest Meteorological Department report.

However, mostly dry weather is expected across south Bengal from November 3 to 4.

A light spell of rain may return over coastal and southern districts, including East and West Midnapore, Nadia, and the 24 Parganas, between November 5 and 6, before clear skies prevail again.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Alipore, the system lay over the northern parts of south Bengal on Saturday morning and is likely to weaken further within the next 12 hours as it moves northnortheastwards.

The minimum temperature is forecast to fall by  $2-3^{\circ}\text{C}$  over the next two to three days, hinting at the arrival of early winter across the region. No warnings have been issued for fishermen or ports along the West Bengal coast, and no swell surge alerts are in effect.

## CHANDRABABU NAIDU BLAMES TEMPLE AUTHORITIES FOR STAMPEDE, JAGAN REDDY SLAMS NEGLIGENCE

Diary Times Desk: Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has pinned the blame on the temple authorities after nine devotees died in a stampede at a newly constructed shrine in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam this morning. The state government is committed to saving lives, but actions by some individuals are leading to such incidents, he later said at a public event in the Sri Sathya Sai district.

The tragedy at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple in Kasibugga occurred amid a heavy rush of devotees on the occasion of Ekadashi, an auspicious day for Hindus. At least eight women and a child were among the dead.

"Unfortunately, the organisers did not inform the police or local authorities about the event. Had they informed us, we would have provided police protection and controlled the crowd. Nine people died, and five were injured. This is so disturbing. While I am trying to save every life (in a cyclone), some private individual is doing such things," said the Chief Minister.

### "CASTE HAS AN APPEAL, BUT IT IS LIMITED": BJP'S RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD TO NDTV

Diary Times Desk: BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad, while speaking at NDTV's Bihar Power Play Conclave on Saturday, downplayed caste-based politics in Bihar ahead of the Assembly elections. According to him, while caste has an "appeal", it is "limited".

"Caste is a reality. But if it were the only reality, Lalu Yadav would have never been defeated. Caste has an appeal, but the appeal is limited where the larger issues of governance, nationalism, delivery, and national security come to play," he said.

Ravi Shankar Prasad praised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, calling him a "very honest" person. "Nitish Kumar is the Chief Ministerial face and will remain. He is very honest. He has been the Chief Minister for 20 years. And the way he has run the government is a remarkable achievement," he said.

The BJP MP also drew a comparison between the current Nitish Kumar-led government and the previous "jungle rai".

He noted that while 94,000 jobs were created during the Lalu Yadav-Rabri Devi regime, 18 lakh jobs were given in the Nitish Kumar-led government. "One crore jobs have also been promised," he said.

## MAN KILLS CO-WORKER WITH DUMBBELL AFTER FIGHT OVER LIGHT SWITCH IN BENGALURU



**Diary Times Desk**: A 41-year-old man was killed by his coworker after a fight over switching off the lights at a rented office in Bengaluru in the early hours of Saturday.

The incident occurred around 1:30 am at the office of a company named Data Digital Bank, which is involved in storing movie shooting videos on a day-to-day basis, police said.

The man was identified as Bheemesh Babu, a native of Chitradurga district.

According to police, a heated argument broke out between the two night-shift employees over turning off the lights. In a fit of rage, the 24-year-old Somala Vamshi, a native of Vijayawada, struck his colleague Bheemesh on the forehead with a dumbbell, killing him on the spot.

#### LUCKNOW EARNS UNESCO 'CITY OF GASTRONOMY' TITLE

Diary Times Desk: Lucknow, the land of nawabs, sent a nomination to be listed as the 'Creative City of Gastronomy' to UNESCO earlier this year. On Friday, at the 43rd session of its General Conference in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, officials honoured the Uttar Pradesh city with the title. Lucknow is also now the second Indian city to hold the title, after Hyderabad.Lucknow was named the 'Creative City of Gastronomy' among the 70 other cities from across the world. It claimed the title for its iconic, historic, and mouth-watering Awadhi cuisine, and on World Cities Day, Lucknow earned the spot. Here's what a UNESCO City of Gastronomy means, and why Lucknow got the title.

A 'Creative City of Gastronomy' deeply demonstrates "gastronomic culture, tied to its history and identity, a vibrant community of chefs and restaurants, a tradition of using indigenous ingredients, and the culinary know-how that has survived the test of industrialisation." It also contains traditional food markets, local food industries, and festivals that honour this history.

### "I DIDN'T WORK FOR MY FAMILY": NITISH KUMAR'S VIDEO MESSAGE AHEAD OF POLLS

**Diary Times Desk:** Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday released a video for the citizens of Bihar ahead of the assembly elections in the state and said he has "served" them with "honesty and hard work" since he was first elected in 2005.

In over a three-minute video address, the JD(U) leader said that "being a Bihari was a matter of insult" when he first became the chief minister in 2005. "My dear brothers and sisters of Bihar, you have given me the opportunity to serve you since 2005.

I want to tell you that the situation in which we got Bihar, at that time, being a Bihari was a matter of insult. Since then, we have served you day and night with honesty and hard work," he said.

Kumar, whose JD(U) is currently part of the ruling BJP-led NDA in Bihar, said they have improved education, health, roads, electricity, drinking water, agriculture, and opportunities for youngsters.

### POLL BODY ORDERS TRANSFERS AFTER DEATH OF JAN SURAAJ 'SUPPORTER' IN BIHAR

**Diary Times Desk:** The Election Commission has ordered the transfer of several administration ad police officers in Bihar following the murder of a man who was allegedly a supporter of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party. The list includes Sub Divisional Officer transfer of Chandan Kumar, two Sub-Divisional Police Officers Rakesh Kumar and Abhishek Singh and Patna SP Rural Vikram Sihag. SDPO Abhishek Singh has been suspended.

The Commission has also sought a report on the matter from the Chief Election Officer by noon Sunday.

Dularchand Yadav was killed on Thursday during a clash between two sides while campaigning in Bihar's Mokama. The constituency, which votes in the first phase on November 6, is known for being a Bahubali stronghold. The most notable among them is Anant Kumar Singh -- who is contesting on a ticket from Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United or JD(U) -- and his brother Dilip Singh.

### "NEW ERA FOR KERALA": P VIJAYAN SAYS STATE HAS ELIMINATED EXTREME POVERTY

**Diary Times Desk:** Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan made a historic declaration in the Legislative Assembly on the occasion of Kerala Piravi (Foundation Day), stating that the state has achieved a remarkable milestone in eradicating extreme poverty.

Chief Minister Vijayan made a statement in the Assembly today under Rule 300 regarding the state's achievement of becoming "Extreme Poverty Free".

Addressing the Assembly, Vijayan said, "The formation of linguistic states was an idea put forward by the national movement a century ago. However, in the early years after independence, long and intense struggles were required to achieve it. The culmination of those struggles was the formation of a united Kerala, the realisation of the Malayalis' dream. Today marks 69 years since the creation of a united Kerala."He added, "Every Kerala Piravi (State Formation Day), we celebrate with joy. But this year's Kerala Piravi Day is, for the people of Kerala, the dawn of a new era.



### 'NO RULES BROKEN': FBI BACKS KASH PATEL'S USE OF JET FOR 'PERSONAL USE'

#### Diary Times Desk:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has responded to scrutiny over its director, Kash Patel's, use of a government aircraft for personal use, saying that no rules were violated because all regulations were followed.

Calling the controversy "disingenuous and dumb," Ben Williamson, the FBI's Assistant Director for Public Affairs, defended Patel's travel, saying the Director's use of government aircraft fully complies with federal law.

Williamson, in the social media post X, explained that under federal regulations, FBI Directors are classified as "required use travellers," meaning they are mandated by Congress to travel on government aircraft, even for personal trips, to maintain access to secure communications equipment at all times.

"They're actually barred from flying commercial. The reason for this is to maintain access to secure communications equipment in the event of an emergency," he wrote, adding that the director reimburses the government in advance for personal travel, strictly following Office of Management and Budget (OMB) rules.

### USHA HAS NO PLANS TO CONVERT: US VP VANCE AMID ROW OVER INTERFAITH MARRIAGE REMARKS

**Diary Times Desk:** Amid criticism over comments about his interfaith marriage, Vice President J D Vance said on Friday that his wife Second Lady Usha Vance has no plans to convert to Christianity but added that he hoped "she may one day see things as I do."

Vance is facing flak over his comments regarding his interfaith marriage after saying he eventually hopes that Usha, who grew up in a Hindu household, "is somehow moved by the same thing that I was moved in by church."

A post on social media said, "It's weird to throw your wife's religion under the bus, in public, for a moment's acceptance by groypers."

"First off, the question was from a person seemingly to my left, about my interfaith marriage. I'm a public figure, and people are curious, and I wasn't going to avoid the question," he said in the response posted on X.

### NANCY MACE CURSES, BERATES CONFUSED COPS IN AIRPORT MELTDOWN: POLICE REPORT



**Diary Times Desk:** Nancy Mace, the South Carolina Republican congresswoman, unleashed a tirade against law enforcement at the Charleston International Airport on Thursday, WIRED has learned.

According to an incident report obtained by WIRED under South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, Mace cursed at police officers, making repeated derogatory comments toward them. The report says that a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) supervisor told officers that Mace had treated their staff similarly and that they would be reporting her to their superiors.

### SRI LANKA DROPS MANDATORY ETA FOR TOURISTS - WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIANS PLANNING TRIP

**Diary Times Desk:** Sri Lanka has revoked its recent decision to make an Electronic Travel Authorisation, or ETA, mandatory for all short-stay visitors. The rule, which was due to take effect on 15 October 2025, has been suspended until further notice, Sri Lanka's ambassador to India, Mahishini Colonne, said on X. The department of immigration confirmed that all ETA and visa services will continue to operate as they did before 15 October. This means travellers can apply for visas under the pre-15 October procedure until a fresh policy is announced.

For Indian travellers, the reversal removes an extra step and should simplify trip planning to the island. Sri Lanka is keen to keep travel links with India strong; Indians accounted for a sizeable share of visitors last year and remain a major source market. Recent reporting puts Indians at more than 31 per cent of total visitors in a recent month, and around 4.16 lakh Indian tourists visited Sri Lanka in 2024.

### 'VANCE ANNOUNCES DIVORCE, MARRIES CHARLIE KIRK'S WIDOW', CLAIMS NYT AUTHOR AFTER VIRAL HUG, NO REACTION YET FROM WIFE USHA

**Diary Times Desk:** Viral videos of US Vice-President JD Vance interacting with Turning Point USA CEO Erika Kirk at a recent campus event have sparked a wave of social media speculation.

The two appeared together at a Turning Point USA programme at the University of Mississippi on Wednesday, where Erika introduced Vance on stage and the pair shared a hug. Clips and photos from the event have since been widely circulated online.

The chatter escalated after New York Times author Shannon Watts shared the images in a post on X. Watts claimed that Vance would announce divorce and marry Erika by the end of next year. Her post has drawn 8.5 million views.



# 'NEED TO UNITE FOR SHARED PROSPERITY': APEC LEADERS HUDDLE TO REWIRE GLOBAL TRADE RULES AFTER TRUMP-XI TRUCE

Diary Times Desk: Leaders of 21 Asian and Pacific Rim nations opened their annual summit on Friday to discuss how to promote economic cooperation and tackle shared challenges, a day after President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed to take steps to ease their escalating trade war.

Opening the summit as chair, South Korean President Lee Jae Myung called for greater cooperation and solidarity to overcome new challenges. "It's obvious that we can't always stand on the same side, as our national interests are at stake. But we can join together for the ultimate goal of shared prosperity," Lee said. "I hope we will have candid and constructive discussions on how we can achieve APEC's vision in the face of the new challenge of a rapidly changing international economic environment."

Meanwhile, the Chinese President proposed the establishment of a World Artificial Intelligence Cooperation Organization, in his address to the APEC leaders. He also announced that China's southern tech hub of Shenzhen would host the 2026 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's meeting.

## EXPLAINER: US NUCLEAR RE-TEST COULD IGNITE GLOBAL ARMS RACE; THE WORLD WATCHES

**Diary Times Desk:** A decision by the US to restart testing of nuclear weapons after a 33-year hiatus signals multiple implications across the world. It indicates a shift away from the era of 'reducing nuclear weapons' and could trigger a fresh arms race.

US President Donald Trump has directed the US Department of War to restart testing and justified the move, citing the need to "start testing our Nuclear Weapons on an equal footing" with rival nations Russia and China, who have been enhancing their nuclear capabilities, although neither has tested nuclear explosives since the early 1990s.

Trump's move appears to have been triggered by an announcement made by Russian President Vladimir Putin on the successful test of a unique underwater long-range drone named 'Poseidon'. The drone, which can carry a nuclear weapon.

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### "HE WAS OFFENDED": MARK CARNEY APOLOGISES TO TRUMP OVER ANTI-TARIFF RONALD REAGAN AD



**Diary Times Desk:** The Canadian Prime Minister, Mark Carney, apologised to US President Donald Trump over an ad. "I did apologise to the president. The President was offended," Carney told the press in Gyeongiu. He also added that the trade talks will restart when the US is "ready".

About The Ad The commercial was based on anti-tariff remarks made by former American President Ronald Reagan to criticise trade barriers.

The one-minute ad was launched by Ontario's premier Doug Ford and had clips of Reagan's 1987 address saying tariffs caused trade wars and economic disaster. However, Carney had said that after reviewing the ad with Ford, he did not want it to air.

"I told Ford I did not want to go forward with the ad," he said.

Carney confirmed the apology after Trump told reporters on Air Force One on Friday, "I have a very good relationship [with Carney]. I like him a lot, but what they did was wrong. He was very nice. He apologised for what they did with the commercial."

### DEMONSTRATORS CALL FOR GOVERNOR'S RESIGNATION AFTER DEADLY RIO POLICE RAID

**Diary Times Desk:** Hundreds of protesters have marched through one of the favelas targeted in the deadliest police raid in Rio de Janeiro's history, calling for Rio state Governor Claudio Castro to resign. The vocal group of demonstrators gathered on Friday in Vila Cruzeiro, part of the Penha complex of favelas that came under assault, to voice their fury at this week's police operation that killed at least 121 people, including four police officers.

Some 2,500 police and soldiers stormed the favelas – low-income and crowded neighbourhoods built on steep hillsides – across Rio on Tuesday, targeting notorious gang Comando Vermelho (Red Command).

### REPUBLICANS PUSH BACK AGAINST TRUMP'S CALL TO END THE SENATE FILIBUSTER

**Diary Times Desk:** President Donald Trump has thrown himself into the ongoing debate over the United States government shutdown, calling on the Senate to scrap the filibuster and reopen the government.

But that idea was swiftly rejected on Friday by Republican leaders who have long opposed such a move.

The filibuster refers to a Senate rule that requires 60 votes to overcome objections. Currently, that rule gives the minority Democrats a check on Republican power in the Senate. In the chamber that's currently split 53 to 47, Democrats have had enough votes to keep the government closed.

#### TRUMP PLACES NIGERIA ON WATCH LIST OVER CLAIMS OF ANTI-CHRISTIAN VIOLENCE

**Diary Times Desk:** United States President Donald Trump has announced that Nigeria will be placed on a watchlist for religious freedom, based on vague claims that Christians in the country are being "slaughtered" by Muslims.

In a social media post on Friday, Trump explained that the African nation would be added to a Department of State list of "Countries of Particular Concern".

"Christianity is facing an existential threat in Nigeria," Trump wrote. "Thousands of Christians are being killed. Radical Islamists are responsible for this mass slaughter. I am hereby making Nigeria a "COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN"."

The Nigerian government has denied such allegations in the past. But critics warn that designating Nigeria a "country of particular concern" could pave the way for future sanctions.

Trump also appears to have bypassed the normal procedure for such matters.

The 1998 International Religious Freedom Act created the category of "country of particular concern" in order to help monitor religious persecution and advocate for its end.



### "POTENTIAL TERRORIST ATTACK" THWARTED IN US

**MICHIGAN: FBI CHIEF** 

**Diary Times Desk:** FBI Director Kash Patel said Friday that the agency had prevented a "potential terrorist attack" planned in the northern US state of Michigan over Halloween weekend.

"This morning the FBI thwarted a potential terrorist attack and arrested multiple subjects in Michigan who were allegedly plotting a violent attack over Halloween weekend," Patel said in a post on X.

"Through swift action and close coordination with our local partners, a potential act of terror was stopped before it could unfold," Patel said.

"The vigilance of this FBI prevented what could have been a tragic attack -- and thanks to their dedication, Michigan will have a safe and happy Halloween," he added.

The FBI director said more details about the alleged plot would be released later.

## TRUMP UNVEILS ANOTHER MAKEOVER TO WHITE HOUSE: RENOVATED LINCOLN BATHROOM

#### Diary Times Desk:

Knocking down the East Wing of the White House apparently wasn't enough for Donald Trump.

The US president unveiled yet another makeover to the storied residence on Friday, showing off a marble-and-gold renovation of the Lincoln Bathroom.

The old version dating back some 80 years had pale green tiles and strip lights, according to a picture posted by Trump on his Truth Social network.

But now, it has gold taps and mirrors, along with lavish white and gray marble walls, Trump revealed in more than two dozen photos in a string of posts

"I renovated the Lincoln Bathroom in the White House. It was renovated in the 1940s in an art deco green tile style, which was totally inappropriate for the Lincoln Era," Trump wrote on Truth Social

"I did it in black and white polished Statuary marble. This was very appropriate for the time of Abraham Lincoln and, in fact, could be the marble that was originally there!"

It comes just days after Trump sparked controversy by demolishing the entire East Wing of the White House in October to build a giant new \$300 million ballroom.

But the bathroom renovation is the first major work done on the executive mansion of the White House itself.

The Lincoln Bathroom is near the Lincoln Bedroom, an ornate room on the second floor of the mansion where the US president lives.

The Lincoln Bedroom used to be the late president's office and cabinet room, and was renamed in 1945 when President Harry Truman ordered furnishings from the Lincoln era.

### INTERNATIONAL

### ISRAEL RETURNS 30 BODIES OF SLAIN PALESTINIANS AS NEW STRIKES HIT GAZA

**Diary Times Desk:** Thirty more bodies of Palestinians who were detained by Israel have been returned to the besieged Gaza Strip, some showing signs of torture.

The return of the Palestinian remains, via the International Committee of the Red Cross, came as Israeli forces continued air strikes across the Strip despite a shaky ceasefire, killing at least three people on Friday.

One Palestinian was killed and his brother wounded by Israeli gunfire in the Shujayea neighbourhood of eastern Gaza City, while another was killed by Israeli shelling in the Jabalia refugee camp, Wafa news agency reported. A third Palestinian died of wounds sustained from previous Israeli shelling, it added.

Separately, civil defence workers in central Gaza said they had recovered the body of a Palestinian from the rubble of the Abu Medein family home in the az-Zahra neighbourhood.



### MICHELLE OBAMA'S REPORTED CONDITION COULD JEOPARDIZE MARRIAGE AMID BARACK'S PRESIDENTIAL COMEBACK PLANS

**Diary Times Desk:** While speculation is on the rise about a possible Donald Trump third-term run, some Democrats have kicked around the possibility of an encore performance by former President Barack Obama. But emerging reports say that such an offer would require his marriage to former First Lady Michelle Obama as collateral.

Michelle has reportedly made it clear to her husband that she has no more use for Washington, RadarOnline claims. According to a family source, she told Hollywood reporter Rob Shuter, "If Barack ever tried to run again, Michelle would walk. She's done her time. She does not want to go back to the White House – not for a single day."

Political analysts have also weighed in on the theoretical potential.

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT SANDRINGHAM, ANDREW'S NEW HOME

#### Diary Times Desk:

The rapid fall from grace of the now former Prince Andrew, culminating in his humiliating exile by King Charles III to the Sandringham estate, has been no less than stunning.

His titles and honors are in the process of being formally stripped – he will henceforth be known as Andrew Mountbatten Windsor – and he's been served notice to surrender his 75-year lease of Royal Lodge, the huge mansion he has lived in for more than two decades.

It is not yet known exactly when Andrew will leave Windsor, west of the British capital London, for the monarch's retreat in rural Norfolk.

Here's what we know about the sprawling estate that Andrew will soon call home.

### TRUMP DENIES REPORTS OF PLANNED MILITARY STRIKES ON VENEZUELA

**Diary Times Desk:** President Donald Trump has denied reports that his administration is preparing military strikes against Venezuela, contradicting earlier claims published in the Miami Herald.

When asked aboard Air Force One whether he was considering strikes on Venezuela, Trump responded with a clear "no." The president gave the same negative response when questioned if he had made any decisions regarding potential military action against the South American nation.

These denials directly contradict a Miami Herald report that cited sources familiar with the situation claiming the Trump administration was preparing to attack military installations inside Venezuela. According to those sources, the strikes would have targeted facilities allegedly used by the Soles drug cartel, which U.S. officials believe is led by Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.

The report had suggested that military action could occur within days or even hours, with the aim of dismantling key infrastructure used by the cartel and potentially targeting its leadership hierarchy.

U.S. officials reportedly believe the cartel exports approximately 500 tons of cocaine annually, divided between European and American markets.



#### MELISSA LEAVES 50 DEAD, TOLL EXPECTED TO RISE IN JAMAICA, HAITI

Diary Times Desk: Hurricane Melissa is finally leaving the Caribbean after battering communities in Jamaica, Haiti and Cuba for days, leaving a trail of devastation that killed about 50 people.

The hurricane smashed into Jamaica with enormous force on Tuesday as a Category 5 storm, and residents were assessing their losses and the long road to recovery on Friday.

More than 60 percent of Jamaica remains without power, and nearly half of its water systems are offline. In the historic seaside town of Black River, in southwest Jamaica, up to 90 percent of all structures were left without roofs, while the storm also snapped power lines and toppled concrete structures.

"People are hungry," said Monique Powell as she stood watch over a stash of groceries and household items for herself and a group of residents from Greenfield, one of many hurricane-torn communities on the outskirts of Black River.

#### CHINA SENDS ITS YOUNGEST ASTRONAUT AND FOUR BLACK MICE TO 'HEAVENLY PALACE' SPACE STATION

Diary Times Desk : China's Shenzhou-21 space rocket and its crew including the youngest member of its astronaut corps blasted off on Friday atop a Long March-2F rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China, Chinese state media reported.

It was the seventh mission to the permanently inhabited Chinese space station since it was completed in 2022.

Missions on China's Shenzhou-21 spacecraft involve trios of astronauts on six-month stays in space, with veteran astronauts increasingly replaced by younger faces. First-timers Zhang Hongzhang, 39, and Wu Fei, 32 - China's youngest astronaut to be sent to space - were picked to participate in the program in 2020. Commander Zhang Lu, 48, flew on the 2022 Shenzhou-15 mission.

First small mammals on space station

The Shenzhou-21 astronauts will take over from the Shenzhou-20 crew who had lived and worked on board Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," for more than six months. The Shenzhou-20 astronauts will return to Earth in the coming days. The Shenzhou-21 crew were also

joined by four black mice, the first small mammals to be taken to the Chinese space station. The mice will be used in experiments on reproduction in low Earth orbit.

### "IMPORTANT NEIGHBOURS": SOUTH KOREA HOSTS XI FOR FIRST TIME SINCE 2014



**Diary Times Desk:** South Korean President Lee Jae Myung hosted Xi Jinping for their first meeting on Saturday as the Chinese head of state took centre stage and reforged old ties at an Asian summit from which US leader Donald Trump was largely absent.

The talks on the sidelines of the APEC gathering came on the final day of Xi's first trip to South Korea in more than a decade and a day after his meeting with Canada's premier reset damaged ties.

Trump flew to South Korea for the summit but promptly jetted home on Thursday after sealing a trade war pause with Xi, the pair agreeing to dial down a dispute that has roiled markets and disrupted global supply chains.

His departure left the Chinese leader to take centre stage at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, where he framed Beijing as a responsible power against the chaos unleashed by the United States on the international order.

### THOUSANDS MISSING, NEW HORRORS EMERGE AFTER RSF TAKING OF SUDAN'S EL-FASHER

**Diary Times Desk:** Starved and abused civilians have recounted harrowing stories after fleeing the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in western Sudan's Darfur, while thousands more remain missing.

The capital of North Darfur state was the last Sudanese army stronghold in the vast region before falling to the RSF after 18 months of siege on Sunday. Since then, the United Nations and international aid agencies have raised the alarm over the fate of civilians as accounts of mass killings, rape and other abuses continue to emerge.

Alkheir Ismail, a young Sudanese man who has fled to the town of Tawila, some 50km (31 miles) away, said he was among a group of 300 people who were stopped by RSF fighters as they tried to escape el-Fasher on Sunday. The fighters only spared him because one of the captors recognised him from his school days, he added.

### TANZANIAN PRESIDENT HASSAN DECLARED WINNER OF DISPUTED VOTE WITH 98 PERCENT

**Diary Times Desk:** US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump welcomed children to the White House on Friday for the annual Halloween trick-or-treat event. The event allows kids to visit the South Lawn in costume and collect candy from the US President and his wife.

During the festivities, Trump repeated a funny and viral moment from 2019 that amused social media users. Instead of putting candy in a child's bag, Trump placed it on the child's head, reported Fox News.

This year, the moment was repeated when a child dressed as popular DJ Marshmello, wearing his signature rectangular marshmallow helmet, went to the president and first lady with a candy bag. Instead of putting the candy in the bag like usual, Trump playfully put a large candy bar on top of the helmet.

### US DNI GABBARD SAYS STRATEGY OF "REGIME CHANGE" OVER, FOREIGN POLICY FUELLED RISE OF "ISLAMIST TERRORIST GROUPS"

**Diary Times Desk:** US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard asserted that America's discredited era of "regime change or nation building" is firmly behind it, describing decades of foreign policy as a "counterproductive and endless cycle".

Speaking at the opening debate of the Manama Dialogue, organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) in Bahrain on Friday, Gabbard argued that decades of Washington's interventionist foreign policies had backfired--breeding instability, draining trillions of dollars, and even fuelling the rise of "Islamist terrorist groups like ISIS".

She further credited President Donald Trump's "pragmatic, deal-driven" approach with steering US foreign policy away from this failed model. "The old Washington way of thinking is something we hope is in the rearview mirror and something that has held us back for too long. For decades, our foreign policy has been trapped in a counterproductive and endless cycle of regime change or nation-building.



#### INDIA'S RULE OF LAW STANCE IN INDO-PACIFIC NOT TARGETED AT ANY COUNTRY: RAJNATH AT ASEAN DEFENCE CONCLAVE

**Diary Times Desk:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday reiterated India's position on the Indo-Pacific, stating that the country's emphasis on the "rule of law" is not directed against any third nation.

"India's emphasis on the rule of law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and its advocacy for freedom of navigation and overflight in the Indo-Pacific, are not directed against any country but are meant to safeguard the collective of interests all regional stakeholders," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the 12th ADMM-Plus in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Saturday.

Addressing the forum on 'Reflection on 15 years of ADMM-Plus and Charting a Way Forward', he asserted that India's strategic engagement with ASEAN is not transactional but long-term and principle-driven, resting on a shared belief that the Indo-Pacific should remain open, inclusive and free from coercion.

### WHY HAS THE ISRAELI ARMY'S TOP LAWYER RESIGNED AFTER LEAKING RAPE EVIDENCE?

**Diary Times Desk:** The Israeli military's top lawyer, Major-General Yifat Tomer-Yerushalmi, has resigned after admitting to leaking footage showing the gang rape of a prisoner at the Sde Temain prison facility in August last year.

The video of the rape had originally been leaked to the press in early August in the midst of a right-wing backlash following the arrest of a number of soldiers for the rape of a Palestinian prisoner.

In her resignation statement on Friday, Tomer-Yerushalmi blamed pressure from the right-wing on her rape investigation for her decision to leak the footage, claiming that she was countering "false propaganda directed against the military law enforcement authorities".

In the leaked footage, soldiers can be seen grabbing and leading away a blindfolded Palestinian prisoner before surrounding him with riot shields to obscure the rape. "For 15 minutes, the accused kicked the detainee, stomped on him, stood on his body, hit him and pushed him all over his body, including with clubs, dragged his body along the ground, and used a taser gun on him, including on his head," the original indictment stated.

# JON STEWART SAYS HE WANTS TO STAY AT 'THE DAILY SHOW,' URGES PEOPLE TO 'FIGHT LIKE HELL'

#### Diary Times Desk:

Jon Stewart says he wants to stay at "The Daily Show" desk after his current contract expires in December.

"We're working on staying," the Comedy Central host said Sunday when asked by David Remnick about his status on stage at The New Yorker Festival in Manhattan.

"It's not as clear-cut as all that," Stewart quickly added. He started to say the media business is changing, perhaps alluding to the recent ownership changes at Comedy Central's parent, Paramount.

However, Remnick asked, "If it's up to you, you're staying?" Yes, Stewart said.



## DESPITE TWO MONTHS OF TARIFFS, CAR PRICES AREN'T GOING UP. IS NOW THE TIME TO BUY?

#### Diary Times Desk :

American car buyers braced for the worst when President Donald Trump's auto tariffs started taking effect in April. But so far, prices are little changed. However, industry experts don't expect that will remain true for long if tariffs stay in place—so Americans may want to buy a car now before prices start to rise within a few months.

"So far there's a mismatch between the expectation of what would happen, and the reality of what has happened with prices," said Ivan Drury, director of insights at car buying research site Edmunds.com. "But I still think we're still going to prices start to take off in two to three months."

Even with 25% tariffs on all imported cars and auto parts, prices are mostly being kept in check

The price paid for new cars in May fell 0.2% on average compared to the month before, according to data from Edmunds, and they rose only 2.5% compared to the pre-tariff period in March.

### THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE COMPANY JUST BLEW THROUGH AN UNPRECEDENTED MILESTONE

**Diary Times Desk:** Nvidia just became the world's first \$5 trillion company.

Unprecedented demand for the company's AI chips has propelled the company's market valuation into the stratosphere. The milestone, which Nvidia reached at Wednesday's open, comes just three months after the company crossed the \$4 trillion mark. It took Nvidia about 13 months to go from \$3 trillion to \$4 trillion in valuation. The company's shares (NVDA) rose 3% after the market opened on Wednesday. Nvidia stock has gained about 50% in 2025 and has been near or at the top of the S&P 500's best-performing stocks for years as investment in artificial intelligence continues to fuel the chipmaker's meteoric rise. Boosting Nvidia's stock Wednesday: hopes for discussions between US President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping that open up China's market to Nvidia's highend Al chips. On Tuesday, Nvidia's stock rose after CEO Jensen Huang presented a vision of Nvidia's future in which the company's chips would be placed in everything from cell phone towers to robotic factories to self-driving cars. Huang, in his first-ever keynote address at the company's GTC AI conference in Washington on Tuesday was effusive in his praise for Trump.



### THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE PUBLIC COMPANY JUST LAID OUT ITS VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**Diary Times Desk:** Nvidia, already the world leader in chips crucial for artificial intelligence, wants to make its technology central to everyday life.

That means everything from cell phone towers to robotic factories to self-driving cars, Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang announced in his first-ever keynote address at the company's GTC Al conference in Washington, DC, on Tuesday.

With AI already playing a major role in consumers' lives and the economy, that kind of ubiquity would cement Nvidia's role in a tech arms race now spanning the globe.

Nvidia's at a critical juncture. It has partnered with the world's top companies, has the ear of President Donald Trump and became the first public firm to reach a \$4 trillion valuation over the summer.



#### **ELON MUSK LAUNCHES HIS VERSION OF WIKIPEDIA**

**Diary Times Desk:** Elon Musk launched Grokipedia – his version of Wikipedia – on Monday, as the richest man in the world further seeks to create an alternative information and media ecosystem molded to his views.

The articles are written by Musk's Grok AI, and the site mimics Wikipedia's minimalist style, page structure and reference style. But Grokipedia is far smaller so far – just over 800,000 articles, compared to Wikipedia's more than 7 million.

While anyone can write and edit Wikipedia articles, it's unclear how much humans are involved with Grokipedia articles. Users do have an option to send feedback if they believe they've caught an error.

"The goal of Grok and Grokipedia.com is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We will never be perfect, but we shall nonetheless strive towards that goal," Musk wrote on his social media platform X, adding later that he hopes to send copies of Grokipedia "etched in a stable oxide in orbit, the Moon and Mars to preserve it for the future."



### BUSINESS | FINANCE s



### HOW TO HELP SNAP RECIPIENTS AS THE SHUTDOWN DRAGS ON

#### Diary Times Desk:

More likely than not, someone in your community — whether friend, family or neighbor — uses SNAP benefits.

As millions of people could lose access to food assistance programs during the government shutdown, many Americans are trying — in however small a way — to fill in the gaps for people at risk of being left behind.

Two federal judges ruled that the Trump administration has to tap into emergency funds to at least partially cover November food assistance. But the aid, which was scheduled to disperse on the first of the month, will still be delayed reaching recipients.

Tee Tran, the owner of Vietnamese restaurant Monster Pho in Oakland, California, knows the struggle all too well. He was one of the thousands of Vietnamese boat people, eventually reaching California in 1989, where his mother worked five jobs and used SNAP benefits to keep food on the table. Now he's decided to give away free meals to children receiving help through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, and a discount for their parents.

# COMPANY RECALLS 2 MILLION POUNDS OF BARBECUE PORK JERKY THAT MAY CONTAIN METAL WIRE

Diary Times Desk: A South Dakota company is recalling more than 2.2 million pounds (998,000 kilograms) of Korean barbecue pork jerky sold at Costco and Sam's Club stores because the product may be contaminated with pieces of metal, federal health officials said Friday.

LSI, Inc., of Alpena, voluntarily pulled the product after customers complained about finding pieces of wiry metal in the jerky, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department.

Company officials said the metal came from a conveyor belt used in production.

No confirmed injuries have been reported.

### BERKSHIRE PROFIT RISES, CASH SOARS TO RECORD



**Diary Times Desk:** Berkshire Hathaway signaled on Saturday that it remained cautious about markets, letting cash swell to a record \$381.7 billion even as profit rose, in its last financial report before Warren Buffett bows out as chief executive.

Between July and September, Buffett's conglomerate also sold more stocks than it bought for its \$283.2 billion equity portfolio, whose holdings, including Apple and American Express, the 12th straight quarter it was a net seller.

Berkshire also repurchased none of its own stock, the fifth straight quarter without buybacks, though its stock price has significantly lagged the broader market.

BUFFETT PREPARING TO BOW OUT, ABEL TO TAKE OVER Buffett, 95, is letting cash build up as he prepares to end his six-decade tenure as chief executive at the end of the year.

Vice Chairman Greg Abel, 63, will succeed the legendary investor, though Buffett will remain chairman. Abel is known as a more hands-on manager than Buffett. It remains unclear how he might spend Berkshire's cash, which could include paying the Omaha, Nebraska-based conglomerate's first dividend since 1967.

### TRUMP'S UNUSUAL TARIFF STRATEGY PUTS AMERICA'S ALLIES IN A NEAR-IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION



**Diary Times Desk:** President Donald Trump has made it clear that his favorite method to gain leverage over opponent countries on the other side of a negotiating table is to raise tariffs. It doesn't matter whether the offense is trade-related or not.

If there had been any lingering doubt (and I doubt there was), it was erased when Trump announced last week that he was increasing tariffs on Canada by 10% because he didn't like an anti-tariff commercial Ontario aired across the United States. Ontario Premier Doug Ford's TV ad quoted the late former President Ronald Reagan, who in 1987 criticized the use of general tariffs as a weapon of trade policy.

It might seem obvious that there is no direct causal trade link between Ontario's and, by extension Canada's, action and Trump's threat of raising Canada's tariffs by 10%. Nevertheless, Trump's response was hardly a surprise. The Canadian incident shows countries on the other side of the negotiating table with the United States face a near-impossible situation.

First, they must negotiate trade deals by coming to Washington with a transactional mindset: "What can we offer up?"

Second, they must, at the last minute, be prepared for the US president to want more — so they better have something else up their sleeve they can give as an offering.

And there's a third wrinkle: Never mind reciprocal tariffs—the United States is in the business of retaliatory tariffs for seemingly unrelated issues. It means no country can know what decision, policy or indiscretion will offend Trump, who may retaliate at virtually any time with further tariffs.

This is uncharted territory, and it is not the normal way of doing business. Traditionally, tariffs have been used to correct a perceived trade imbalance and to protect the home market by making imports more expensive. What seems clear is that Trump's love of tariffs will ensure they remain at the heart of US economic policy.

### **STATES**

### DIARY TIMES | Shimla | Sunday | 02-11-2025

### IST SNOW LEOPARD SIGHTING REPORTED FROM HIMACHAL'S KINNAUR: RESCUED **FROM DAM**

Diary Times Desk: The rare snow leopard, usually found in high, snow-covered mountains, was reportedly sighted for the first time in Himachal Pradesh's Kinnaur district on Saturday.

The animal was found trapped in the filter inlet at the dam site the 120-MW Hydroelectric Project in Bhaba and the forest department was alerted by project officials.

Forest Range Officer (RO), Bhaba Nagar, Parmanand Darekh, along with his team, reached the spot. A rescue from the forest department in Rampur, the Kinnaur superintendent of police (SP) and a fire brigade team from Bhaba Nagar also joined the rescue operations.

The fire brigade team's initial effort to rescue the snow leopard from the dam using a ladder was unsuccessful. Forest officials then used local techniques and safely rescued animal without any equipment or injury. The snow leopard headed back into the forest after being rescued.

### **HIMACHAL TO RECEIVE** SNOWFALL, RAIN ON **NOVEMBER 4-5; COLD WAVE EXPECTED**

Diary Times Desk: Himachal Pradesh is set to receive a fresh spell of snowfall and rainfall on November 4 and 5, according to Meteorological State's the Department.

A fresh Western Disturbance is likely to influence the western Himalayan region from the night of November 3, resulting in snowfall and rain in many parts of the state

The higher hills, including Lahaul and Spiti, Kinnaur, Kullu, Kangra, and Chamba, are expected to witness light snowfall at isolated places, while the rest of the state will experience light rain.

During this period, minimum temperatures are expected to drop by 2°C to 5°C, and maximum temperatures by 3°C to 6°C, creating cold wave conditions in several areas.

### PUNJAB CM MANN SLAMS BJP OVER 'SHEESH MAHAL' ALLEGATIONS, OFFERS TO **SHOW REAL 'PALACES'**

Diary Times Desk: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Saturday hit back at BJP for terming an official accommodation of the state government as a "Sheesh Mahal".

In a video message, the CM said the house that BJP is claiming is a "Sheesh Mahal" made for AAP national president Arvind Kejriwal is the same house that serves as an official residence for guests of the Puniab CM.

"It is the same house that a Pakistani journalist and friend of Capt Amarinder Singh stayed in when he was the CM, but the BJP never criticised it then," Mann said.

However, he offered to provide the addresses of real "Sheesh Mahals" belonging to Capt Amarinder Singh, now a BJP leader, and Sukhvilas of Sukhbir Badal.

Mann insisted that BJP was making false allegations because it has no agenda for Punjab. "They are disturbed by the huge support AAP is getting in political rallies in Punjab," he said.



### **CBI COURT GRANTS FIVE-DAY REMAND TO SUSPENDED PUNJAB DIG BHULLAR**

Diary Times Desk: The CBI court in Chandigarh has granted five-day remand of suspended DIG Harcharan Singh Bhullar to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The investigating agency had sought five days' remand a day after the court sent the accused to 14-day judicial custody. The sudden move by the CBI to seek the remand came after the Vigilance Bureau of Punjab registered a case against him and filed an application with the Mohali court seeking his production warrant.

While appearing for the accused, senior advocate APS Deol argued that the CBI is playing a "hide-andseek game" with the accused. He said the CBI sought the remand a day after the Vigilance Bureau registered the case against the accused. He further argued that the CBI had never sought police remand of the accused on two earlier occasions. It is surprising that a day after the court sent Bhullar to judicial custody for another 14 days, the CBI suddenly sought the police remand, he added.

### AAP, SAD, CONGRESS SLAM **CENTRE FOR 'RESTRUCTURING'** PANJAB UNIVERSITY'S SENATE, SYNDICATE

Diary Times Desk: The ruling AAP and the opposition SAD and Congress on Saturday hit out at the Centre for "restructuring" Panjab University's governing bodies - Senate and Syndicate - with the Akali Dal calling it a "Tughlagi Farman".

The attack follows after the Centre restructured Panjab University's Senate and Syndicate via a notification dated October 28, amending the Panjab University Act, 1947, taking effect immediately.

Senior AAP leader and Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema called the BJP government's "centralising overreach on the Panjab University Act an assault on federalism and regional identity".

"Diluting the unique state-Centre joint character by cutting the state's role, replacing elected members with Central nominees, and shifting power is a shameless power grab that cripples autonomy," Cheema alleged.

### YOUR HOROSCOPE



Ares

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.

Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere 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.

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

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.

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

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 noblems of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of

Cemini
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 walking due to nerve pain problems.

checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

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 deling 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.

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.

### BUS DRIVER'S QUICK THINKING SAVES AMBALA SCHOOLCHILDREN FROM FALLING INTO GORGE IN SOLAN

Diary Times Desk: Children of Ambala-based Nand Lal Geeta Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School had a narrow escape on Saturday morning after their bus developed a mechanical fault near Harat village along the Salogra-Harat road in Solan district.

Sources said the driver acted swiftly and rammed the vehicle into a mound of muck to bring it to a halt, preventing it from plunging into a deep gorge. The bus, however, came to rest precariously on the edge of the link road.

The driver informed that there were around 50 occupants, including 28 girls, on board. The bus (registration number HR 37 D 6837) was travelling from Tepla village near Ambala to Mohan Shakti Heritage Park.

The shaken children were safely rescued by school staff.
Superintendent of Police (SP) Solan, Gaurav Singh, said the police were not informed about

# HARYANA GOVT INTERFERING IN MANAGEMENT OF GURDWARA PANEL: JHINDA

Diary Times Desk: Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (HSGMC) chief Jagdish Singh Jhinda today accused the state government of interfering in the management of the committee, saying that nagar kirtans dedicated to the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur had been scheduled across the state as per government orders, but the committee had not been consulted

The government should hold a meeting with the committee members and take responsibility for upholding the sanctity of Guru Sahib, he said. If the government failed to do so, the HSGMC would not participate in the nagar kirtans, warned Jhinda.

### PM MODI GREETS KARNATAKA, MP, KERALA, HARYANA, CHHATTISGARH ON THEIR FORMATION DAY

**Diary Times Desk:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted the people of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Haryana and Chhattisgarh on their formation day.

The Prime Minister will be in Chhattisgarh on Saturday to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the state's formation.

"This state, dedicated to nature and culture, is today engaged in setting ever-new benchmarks of progress. Many areas here, once affected by Naxalism, are now competing in development," Modi said, greeting the brothers and sisters of Chhattisgarh.

"I am confident that with the dedication and enterprise of the hardworking and skilled people here, our state will play a pivotal role in realizing the vision of a developed India," he

The prime minister greeted the spirit of excellence and industrious nature of the people of Karnataka on Kannada Rajyotsava.



### ROHTAK POLICE LAUNCH QR CODE FEEDBACK SYSTEM TO BOOST CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

**Diary Times Desk:** In a significant step towards enhancing public trust, the Rohtak police have introduced a QR code-based feedback system across all police stations/posts in the district.

The initiative aims to gather citizens' views on police performance, behaviour, and functioning, helping the department improve its services.

Rohtak SP Surender Singh Bhoria said that the feedback QR code had been installed at every police station and posts. By scanning the code with a mobile phone, any complainant can access a digital form containing 12 questions, including 11 for rating and one open-ended for suggestions.

"The objective behind launching this QR code system is to understand people's experiences when they visit police stations, how they are treated, how transparent the process is, and how clean and well-managed the premises are," Bhoria explained.

### HIGH PADDY ARRIVAL IN KAITHAL MANDIS DESPITE LOWER YIELD RAISES EYEBROWS

**Diary Times Desk:** After Karnal, Kaithal district too has reported unusually high paddy arrivals in its grain markets this procurement season compared to the same period last year — sparking concern among officials over possible irregularities, given the reported lower yields following floods and unseasonal rain.

As per official data till October 30, all grain markets in Kaithal have collectively received 8,83,640 metric tonnes (MT) of paddy - 90,746 MT more than the 7,92,894 MT recorded during the corresponding period last year.

The Cheeka grain market, which had witnessed significant crop damage due to flooding earlier this season, surprisingly topped the list with an arrival of 3,51,020 MT, up from 3,35,917 MT last year. The Kaithal grain market logged 2,01,708 MT compared to 1,80,670 MT last year, while Dhand reported 1,66,939 MT, a sharp jump from 1,35,758 MT.

### HARYANA GOVERNOR ISSUES ORDINANCE DECRIMINALISING 164 OFFENCES ACROSS 42 ACTS, 17 DEPARTMENTS

Diary Times Desk: With Haryana Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh promulgating an Ordinance to decriminalise 164 provisions across 42 state Acts covering 17 departments, the state has taken a major step towards trust-based governance aimed at promoting ease of living and ease of doing business. Promulgated under Article 213 of the Constitution of India, the Haryana Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Ordinance, 2025 replaces obsolete and redundant penal clauses in several Acts. Under the new framework, criminal penalties for minor and technical procedural lapses will now be replaced with civil and administrative actions, thereby reducing harassment and delays for citizens and businesses.

"No penalty shall be imposed by any competent authority in contravention of any provision of the relevant enactment without following the principles of natural justice of hearing," the ordinance states.

Officials said the Ordinance has been promulgated since the Haryana Assembly is not in session and will be taken up in the upcoming winter session to be converted into an Act.



### **EDITORIAL**

#### Teenage Tennis Star And 'Generational Talent' João Fonseca

ver since he first picked up a tennis racket. João Fonseca has shown a penchant for power - even if it came with mixed results.

"I was the kind of kid that destroyed the ball," says Fonseca. "Sometimes, it would go into the fence; sometimes, it would go straight to the floor; and then, sometimes, we're doing a winner.

approach - fearless, unrestrained - has stayed with the Brazilian into his professional career, and today, his ripping forehand is one of the most breathtaking sights in men's tennis. Few players can match the 19-yearold Fonseca when it comes to raw power, particularly on the forehand wing. This not-sosubtle, not-so-secret weapon has guided him to

two ATP Tour titles this year, including in the Swiss city of Basel last week.

There, Fonseca thumped winners to see Alejandro Spain's Davidovich Fokina in the final, while his average George Ramsay speed was clocked at 81 miles per But Fonseca's progress riour. For comparison, top He failed to progress players usually average past the third round of a around 75. around 75. perhaps a surprise after "I think my coach was really the enormous promise



the first one that said:

'Keep with this aggression," Fonseca tells CNN Sports about his all-out approach. "Keep doing this, but at the same time, let's work with being more solid.'

"During these last years, I understood that you can't hit the ball hard every time ... Sometimes, it's a stupid idea, of course, but sometimes, it's good to be aggressive, to be courageous and

have confidence in your shots."

Lifting the title in Basel saw Fonseca become the third-youngest ATP 500 winner since the format was introduced in 2009, as well as the tournament's youngest winner since Jim Courier in 1989.

Still a teenager, Fonseca's potential is huge, his freakish power likely to become more of a threat as he develops and refines his game. To some, he is destined to join Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner - by far and away the standout players in men's tennis this year - at the very top of the game.

"The Brazilian Blaster (Fonseca) is a generational talent as I said 2 years ago and will right there someday with the Italian Flamethrower (Sinner) and Spanish Magician (Alcaraz)." Rick Macci, the former coach to Serena Williams, wrote on X recently.

Those players, Macci added, will "create a new big three" to replace Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Davidovich Fokina spoke along the same lines during his runner-up speech in Basel, telling Fonseca that he is "for sure going to be the next Nole (Djokovic) to beat Carlos and Jannik."

After winning last year's Next Gen ATP Finals title - a tournament featuring the world's best players under 20 - Fonseca turned heads at the Australian Open in January with a straight-sets victory over ninth seed Andrey Rubley.

He followed that up by winning the Argentina Open a month later, becoming the secondyoungest South American to win an ATP title in



#### THIS ONCE-VIBRANT JAMAICAN TOWN IS NOW IN DESPERATE NEED OF HELP

nce described as a tropical paradise, the coastal town of Black River, Jamaica, is now being compared to "hell on Earth" after being ravaged by Hurricane Melissa.



Derek Van Dam

**Emergency** crews and defense forces are gradually arriving to

help where they can. But that help can't arrive soon

enough,

Many of the town's colorful homes, historical buildings and lush greenery have been reduced to piles of rubble that litter the nowmuddy ground.

"We have nowhere to stay," Britney Samms, a resident of Black River's Vineyard District, told CNN.

Black River was one of the worst-hit places in all of Jamaica.

A storm surge of up to 16 feet flooded parts of the residents say. community as the hurricane barreled through. At least two people died here - their bodies discovered floating in the water after the storm had cleared St Flizabeth Police Superintendent Coleridge Wednesday.



ed a shelter also, and I need food for my kids, eed clothes for my kids," said a woman who need clothes for n ntified herself as Anyaleepy. "And not only for e, but everybody who can come and help us. ls your help. We're dying out

Across the Caribbean, at least 49 people are known to have died, Reuters reported, though the full toll of the catastrophic storm may take days or weeks to be determined.

In Black river, hundreds of survivors are now walking through the streets in shock, trying to process the harrowing situation they face.

Many have lost their homes and are wondering where they will go for shelter.

"We live in a board house. Everything is gone - dressers, stove - everything is gone," Samms said, sitting beside other residents next to shopping carts with their loaded remaining belongings. It was "a nice, quiet, very docile town," said a man from a nearby town after surveying the devastation. Now it's a "hell on Earth," he said.

The town's narrow roads are now cluttered with metal roof panels. slabs of concrete, and all kinds of trash that the water brought in.Agonizing screams often echo through the town as residents walk around in circles, searching for loved ones or taking stock of the damage.

The heat and humidity are adding another layer of complexity to the recovery efforts. There makeshift camp of people who rode out the storm, but nothing remains standing.

Mayor Richard Solomon described the conditions as devastating. "Catastrophic is a mild term based on what we are observing here," he said

the devastation, Addina to Solomon said the storm "wiped out" the town's relief supplies and rendered emergency vehicles inoperable due to water damage. vehicles This delayed the authorities' ability to deliver much-needed aid



### An Undocumented Mother

### ICE RAIDS AND 'CORNHUSKER CLINK' ARE THE END OF THE NEBRASKA



Amanda Musa

the future, Alejandra wonders what kind of future awaits her

young sons, especially if the Nebraska she knows continues to

transform and align with Trump's antiimmigration rhetoric. Like her parents, Alejandra says she may be forced to leave the state, and everything she knows, in exchange for a stable and happy life.

lejandra doesn't leave her home unless she really needs to. She skips doctor's appointments and church to remain undetected. And if she is detained by enforcement immigration officials, her 13-year-old son is prepared with a list of people to call and his social security number memorized.

"I cannot be separated from my kids," said the 30-year-old undocumented mother of four As she looks towards children who were born in the United States, "I just can't risk it." CNN agreed to only use Alejandra's first name to protect her identity out of respect for her safety concerns due to her immigration status

> The idea that her family might be ripped apart only crossed her mind recently, she said, when President Donald Trump's immigration nationwide crackdown humble quiet Nebraska community she calls home.In June, a meatpacking plant in Omaha was raided Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in what the agency described as the largest worksite operation in the state since the start of the Trump administration. Alejandra says several family friends and church acquaintances were among the dozens of people detained.

As that event continues to generate aftershocks, a new ICE detention center, dubbed the 'Cornhusker Clink," is opening in western Nebraska soon and is expected to hold up to 300 adults, a spokesperson for Nebraska's Republican Gov. Jim Pillen told CNN Thursday.The facility will join other new ICE detention centers in Republicanled states, including "Alligator Alcatraz" in Florida, "Louisiana Lockup" or "Camp 57" in Louisiana, and "Speedway Slammer" in Indiana.

These new ICE facilities "are significantly expanding detention space to house the worst of the worst illegal aliens," a Department of Homeland Security spokesperson told CNN Wednesday. "We look forward to the opening of this new partnership with Nebraska very soon."

Pillen's office has estimated the contract with DHS will bring around \$14 million annually to the state, Laura Strimple, a spokesperson for the governor's office described it as "the latest action undertaken by Gov. Pillen to stand with President Trump and protect Americans from criminal illegal aliens. The facility will not only serve Nebraska, but also other states in the region."

Sitting hundreds of miles away

from the border, the opening of "Cornhusker Clink" may solidify Nebraska's place in the national immigration debate. Unlike many states at the center of immigration enforcement operations, Nebraska is under full Republican control and its governor hasn't shied away from the conversation.

Pillen signed a January executive order expressing his support for federal immigration policy, ordered Nebraska National Guard deployments to Texas, and facilitated the troops' activation ahead of recent ICE protests in his state. He also touted the alleged arrest of a MS-13 "kingpin" in Omaha this summer.

immigration advocates, some state lawmakers and business leaders said it's a contrast from the previously welcoming atmosphere they have worked to build in the state, especially to strengthen its economy.

### Nebraska's immigrant workforce under

Unlike other states. Nebraska is not often seen of as a haven for immigrants, but parts of the state are an enclave for Latinos, who have lived and worked in the Cornhusker state for many years in part due to the meat packing industry, immigration advocates and business leaders in the state say.



### ARTS & INFOTAINMENT

#### WHAT IS AN ENIGMA MACHINE?

Diary Times Desk: The British mathematician Alan Turing led the Second World War struggle to break the German enciphering machine, the Enigma. This machine, used by all German armed services, encoded the 26 letters of the alphabet in complicated ways determined by the settings of its revolving rotors.

Turing's name made headlines with the release of the 2014 film The Imitation Game. Amid the fanfare, it was easy to forget that the Enigma was part of the grim and grimy reality of warfare, as shown in the German film Das Boot (1981) and more recently the TV series of the same name.

The U-boat war depended on the radio messages that transmitted orders, positions and reports between the submarine fleet and its command structure. It was therefore the U-boat Enigma messages that were the most vital, and the special four-rotor M4 Enigma machine played a crucial part in this story.

The war, however, did not start with the M4. By 1939, the German armed forces all used the standard military Enigma, with just three rotors and an extra plugboard. This had been penetrated with remarkable speed by Polish cryptographers. In 1938, British Intelligence recruited Turing as its first mathematician. Until then, classicists and linguists had dominated. Turing came from Cambridge, where two years earlier he had laid out the theory of modern computing, but had also spent two years at Princeton. His PhD in logic was combined with a serious interest in new machinery. In 1939, Turing was to gain the important advantage of the brilliant mathematical work on the Enigma that the Polish cryptanalysts Marian Rejewski, Jerzy Różycki and Henryk Zygalski handed over to British Intelligence.

Working at Bletchley Park, the wartime centre of British codebreaking operations, Turing and his colleagues rapidly devised a completely new kind of machine. It was a search engine for Enigma settings that used electromagnetic relay technology and was known as the 'Bombe', a name derived from an earlier, less powerful Polish machine. Its inspired logic, a joint effort by Turing and fellow Cambridge mathematician Gordon Welchman, could overcome the complexity of the Enigma's plugboard, provided about 25 letters of a message were correctly guessed. By May 1940, the first Bombe was decoding the Luftwaffe's messages. The German naval forces, however, used their Enigma machines more carefully than the air force. In particular, they added a further level of security through an extra 'bigram table', provided to the operators in special papers. In modern terms, it might be likened to an extra password that needed to be hacked.





### STEFAN EDLIS AND GAEL NEESON BUILT AN UNFORGETTABLE COLLECTION DEFINED BY HUMANITY AND HUMOUR

Diary Times Desk: 'In the art world there are a lot of followers — a few leaders and a lot of followers,' the late collector Stefan Edlis quipped in the 2018 art world documentary The Price of Everything. Before passing in 2019 at age 94, Edlis, along with his wife, Gael Neeson, built one of America's most important collections of post-war and contemporary art. Embracing works that were both joyful and defiant, the discerning couple established themselves as steadfast cultural leaders championing work that uprooted conventions and broadened the definition of what art could be. This November, Christie's is honoured to present more than 40 groundbreaking works of art and design from the couple's collection during the November marquee week in New York, first on 19 November in the 21st Century Evening Sale and followed by the Post-War & Contemporary Art Day Sale on 20 November. Additional offerings from the collection will appear in December and through 2026.

Iconic, playful and strikingly forthright examples by America's leading contemporary artists lead the selection. 'Humour and meaning were the touchstones of their collection. They wanted to live with works that helped them understand the underbelly of society but were also joyful, whether Ed Ruscha's How Do You Do? (2003), an iconoclastic Urs Fischer sculpture or a Diego Giacometti console,' says Sara Friedlander, Christie's Deputy Chairman of Post-War and Contemporary Art. In addition to artworks by Ruscha and Fischer are pieces by George Condo, John Currin, Marlene Dumas, Jeff Koons, Claes Oldenburg and Cindy Sherman. Also featured are works of avant-garde and Art Deco design by Giacometti, Emile-Jacques Ruhlmann and Jean Dunand, amongst others.

#### Resilience reflected through collecting

Born in Vienna in 1925 and raised Jewish, Edlis fled Nazi-occupied Austria for the United States in 1941 with his mother and two siblings. He then served in the US Navy during World War II, after which he made moulds for a toolmaker. By 1954 Edlis was running the company, and 11 years later he set up on his own, establishing what became the Apollo Plastics Corporation. During a ski trip to Wisconsin in 1974, Edlis met Neeson, a medical technician living in Europe. The couple soon returned to America and, under the guidance of notable Chicago collector Gerald Elliot, set about on a lifelong journey devoted to the arts. An early recommendation by Elliot, Larry Rivers's Four Mollys (1957), will be offered at Christie's in 2026.



### BARCELONA COULD EARN BONUS REVENUE FROM EX-FLOP DUE TO SPECIAL CLAUSE IN SALE AGREEMENT



**Diary Times Desk:** The Vitor Roque operation at Barcelona was, by most measures, a failure. The Brazilian striker arrived as a rising star but never acclimatised and was barely used by Xavi Hernandez, and was not in Hansi Flick's plans.

He was eventually sold back to Palmeiras in a complex deal that saw Barça lose around €4.5 million, not including salary.

However, the club expects some bonus revenue from the Roque deal thanks to a few clauses that were incorporated in the original deal.

Barcelona expecting bonus from Roque deal

According to SPORT, the first of these payments could arrive as soon as November 29.

Since returning to Brazil, Roque has become a star for Palmeiras, scoring 17 goals and leading his team to the Copa Libertadores final against Flamengo.

### FLICK TALKS LAMINE, PEDRI, OLMO, LEWANDOWSKI, JOAN GARCIA, CUBARSI AHEAD OF BARCELONA VS ELCHE

**Diary Times Desk:** Following their 2-1 defeat to Real Madrid, FC Barcelona will be itching to bounce back strongly when they take on Elche tomorrow at Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys.

Already five points behind Xabi Alonso's men, the Blaugrana could find themselves trailing by eight, given that the current league leaders play relegation-battling Valencia later tonight.

So, it goes without saying that after a forgetful month of October, Hansi Flick & co. cannot afford any more slip-ups and must get things back on track immediately.

Ahead of the game at Montjuic, which could be Barça's last at the venue ahead of a potential return to Camp Nou later this month, Hansi Flick spoke to the media in his pre-match press conference.

Kicking things off, the German tactician praised the way Elche play, saying: "It's different. I like the way Elche plays. They play good football and as a team. It will be important to pressure

### BARCELONA 22-YEAR-OLD DEFENDER COULD BE CALLED UP VS ELCHE AFTER TRAINING WITH FIRST TEAM

**Diary Times Desk:** Earlier today, FC Barcelona completed their final preparations for tomorrow's match against Elche at Estadi Olimpic Lluis Companys.

As usual, manager Hansi Flick opted to call up a few players from the reserve ranks to train with the senior setup, with Xavi Espart being one of them.

Mamadou Mbacke trains with senior team, could be called up tomorrow

According to Mundo Deportivo, Flick also called up Mamadou Mbacke from Barça Atletic to take part in training ahead of the match against Elche.

Due to the absence of Andreas Christensen and the condition of Pau Cubarsi, who did not train with the group earlier in the week, Flick decided to include the 22-year-old Mbacke in preparations. The Senegalese centre-back started the season with an injury and missed a few matches before returning and starting three games in a row.Another injury sidelined him for a short period, and the centre-half only came back last week. Mbacke's call-up to training today opens the door to a possible inclusion in the first-team squad list against Elche.

### BARCELONA PLAYERS SEEKING OUTSIDE HELP FOR FITNESS NEEDS AMID GROWING INJURY CONCERNS

**Diary Times Desk:** The physical condition of Barcelona's squad has become a major concern for Hansi Flick and his coaching staff. Data shows a clear decline in the team's physical performance compared to last season – a trend visible both in training and during matches.

The Catalans believe this drop-off is one of the main reasons behind the alarming wave of injuries – 13 players have already suffered physical setbacks in just three months this season.

Players looking outside for help As such, Javi Miguel of AS reports that the situation has led to growing unease within the dressing room.

In fact, several first-team players believe that the current regime at the Ciutat Esportiva does not place enough emphasis on strength training.

As such, they are now complementing their physical preparation outside the club's facilities, with some even working with private trainers.

In fact, certain players have been relying on external specialists for some time now – both physically and mentally.

### BARCELONA BELIEVE LA MASIA TALENT HAS A REAL CHANCE OF BREAKING INTO THE FIRST TEAM

**Diary Times Desk:** La Masia has been a real lifesaver for Barcelona in recent years, producing talents such as Lamine Yamal, Alejandro Balde, Gavi and Pau Cubarsi, among others.

These players have gone on to become key components in Barcelona's first team, thereby helping the club reduce their reliance on the transfer market.

Now, at a time when Barcelona are struggling with their defence, the club may once again look towards La Masia to provide them with a star talent. And as things stand, everything is pointing towards 18-year-old Hafiz Gariba.

The next big thing from La Masia? According to SPORT, Barcelona believe that Gariba has a real chance of breaking into the first-team setup if his current growth trajectory continues. Gariba, who arrived at the club just six months ago, has had a curious but rapid rise. He came from the Marcet Academy and even spent time playing in the lowest tier of Catalan football with CE Codolar just to acquire rhythm.

### BARCELONA 24-YEAR-OLD STAR IN THE FINAL PHASE OF HIS RECOVERY FROM INJURY

**Diary Times Desk:** On Sunday, FC Barcelona will lock horns with Elche, aiming to get back to winning ways in La Liga following their El Clasico defeat a week ago.

Leading up to the game, Hansi Flick has been greeted with mixed news on the injury front as Robert Lewandowski and Dani Olmo are set to return, while Pedri has been sidelined.

There is another positive, though, in terms of the progress being made by Joan Garcia.

Closing in on a return

them the way we want."

Indeed, according to Guillem Borras Perez on Jijantes, Garcia has entered the final phase of his recovery and appears very close to making his return.

The 24-year-old goalkeeper has been working on the pitch for a few days now and did some individual exercises earlier today before tomorrow's game against

