

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### INDIA BLOC IS RUNNING OUT OF PATIENCE WITH CONGRESS. CAN YOU BLAME THEM?

**Diary Times Desk :** Like pollution in Delhi, Indian National Congress's continuous downfall seems insurmountable: no solution is in sight, nor is any effort being made to find a way out. With the Bihar rout, according to one estimate being circulated on social media, Rahul Gandhi is now five short of a century of leading his party to defeat since he emerged in 2003. A chart is doing its rounds, which shows a map of India listing the state assembly polls that the Congress has lost under his tutelage. "While many will call him a 9-to-5 blame game politician, Rahul Gandhi has now accumulated 95 electoral defeats in two decades, five short of a century. Is the attack on India's institutions a diversionary tactic by the silver-silver spoon scion?", reads the introduction to the map of the Congress's debacle after debacle. It Started In 1989 It was 1989 when the Congress lost absolute power (thereafter it formed only coalition governments). That debacle began with the Congress defeat in Tamil Nadu. The party, despite its strength of 404 in the Lok Sabha.

### SAUDI BUS ACCIDENT: HYDERABAD POLICE COMMISSIONER SAYS 45 KILLED

**Diary Times Desk :** At least 45 people, most of them from Hyderabad, were killed in a bus accident in Saudi Arabia, the city police chief said on Monday, citing preliminary information.

Addressing reporters here, Hyderabad police commissioner VC Sajjanar said a total of 54 people travelled to Jeddah from here on November 9. They were scheduled to return on November 23.

Of the 54, four people travelled separately by car to Madina on Sunday, while another four stayed back in Mecca. According to the official, 46 people were travelling in the ill-fated bus, which collided with an oil tanker about 25 km from Madina. Only one person survived the accident and is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital.

## BIHAR CABINET

### HECTIC LOBBYING AMONG NDA PARTNERS FOR BERTHS IN NEW BIHAR CABINET AHEAD OF NOV 20 SWEARING-IN



**Diary Times Desk :** Hectic lobbying has started among NDA partners to finalise the allocation of Cabinet berths ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new Bihar government, scheduled to take place here on November 20.

Sources said the new Cabinet is likely to include five to six fresh faces from the main constituents — the BJP and JD(U).

Umesh Singh Kushwaha, JD(U) chief of the state unit who won from Mahnar seat, is likely to be inducted in the new cabinet of Nitish Kumar, who prepares to take oath as the CM for a record 10th time.

Kumar will submit his resignation to Governor Arif Mohammad Khan as head of the outgoing government on November 19.

While the JD(U) is set to retain most of its ministers, the BJP may introduce a few new faces, sources said. Of the 25 ministers in the outgoing Cabinet who contested the polls, all but one won. The lone unsuccessful minister, Sumit Kumar Singh, elected as an Independent in 2020 and later inducted into the Cabinet, failed to retain his seat after contesting on a JD(U) ticket. Along with the JD(U) and the BJP, smaller partners — Union minister Chirag Paswan's LJP (RV), Jitan Ram Manjhi's HAM-S, and Upendra Kushwaha's RLM — will also be part of the new Cabinet. "The LJP (RV) is likely to get three berths while HAM-S and RLM may get one berth each. A maximum of 16 ministers from the BJP and 14 from JD(U), along with Nitish Kumar, are likely to take oath on November 20," sources said. "We are looking forward to greater representation in the new Cabinet compared to the last one in which we had only 12 ministers. Our tally has risen sharply since 2020, when we had fewer than 50 MLAs," JD(U) sources said. Apart from the CM, JD (U) leaders who are expected to be part of the new Cabinet include: Bijendra Prasad Yadav, Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Shrawan Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Lesi Singh, Sheila Mandal, Madan Sahni, Ratnesh Sada, Mohammad Zama Khan, Jayant Raj, Umesh Singh Kushwaha and Ashok Chowdhary.

### BIHAR RESULTS SHOW PEOPLE TRUST PARTIES THAT FULFIL THEIR ASPIRATIONS: PM MODI

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the Bihar election results have taught a lesson that the aspirations of the people from the government are very high and they trust political parties with good intentions.

Delivering the sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture, Modi said be it the Central Government or state governments led by regional parties, their primary focus should be development.

"The results of the Bihar election have once again taught a lesson on the high aspirations and ambitions of the people of India. The people of India today trust those political parties who have good intentions and fulfil the aspirations of the people and prioritise development," Modi said.

"I strongly encourage state governments to foster a spirit of healthy competition by attracting investments and promoting growth. Organising competitions to improve the ease of doing business could be a great step in this direction," he said.

Modi said BJP wins elections because it is committed to the development and welfare of the people 24x7.



### TAMIL NADU CM MK STALIN, ACTORS AJITH KUMAR, ARAVIND SWAMY, KHUSHBU GET BOMB THREATS; SECURITY BEEFED UP



**Diary Times Desk :** Chief Minister MK Stalin and actors Ajith Kumar, Aravind Swamy, and Khushbu received bomb threats. On Sunday night, police received an email warning of bombs planted at their homes.

The message was received at the office of the Director General of Police (DGP). Security checks at all four locations were tightened immediately. Notably, Ajith Kumar's house in Injambakkam, Chennai, had already faced a similar warning just a week ago, allegedly from an unidentified individual.

MK Stalin, Ajith Kumar and more celebs get bomb threats. Reportedly, police teams, along with the bomb squad, carried out detailed inspections inside the houses and in the surrounding areas. No explosives were found anywhere, and officials have not shared any specific information about the source of the threat.

A report by ETimes mentioned police searched areas like Chennai One IT Park, Mylapore Saibaba Temple, PSBB School, director Thankar Bachan's home, actress Vadivukarasi's residence, the residence of Dr Kalai Kathiravan, a location linked to Dr Ayyappan of BSS Hospital, Chitra Lakshman's home, a Malaysia Airlines flight, and the IIT Madras campus. Every search ended with the same conclusion - nothing dangerous was detected.

### IRAN ENDS VISA-FREE ENTRY FOR INDIANS FROM NOVEMBER 22



**Diary Times Desk :** Iran has scrapped its visa-waiver facility for ordinary Indian passport holders following a series of alarming incidents in which Indians were trafficked, kidnapped and extorted after being lured to the country on false promises of jobs or onward travel to third nations.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a detailed advisory issued on Monday, said the government had been "drawn to several incidents" where Indian nationals were misled by agents offering lucrative employment or seamless transit routes via Iran.

Taking advantage of Iran's visa-free entry for Indian travellers, many unsuspecting citizens flew into the country -- only to find themselves trapped.

According to the advisory, several Indians were kidnapped for ransom shortly after landing in Iran, indicating a coordinated criminal network exploiting the visa-waiver loophole. These syndicates allegedly targeted vulnerable job-seekers, particularly those desperate for overseas opportunities.

In response to the escalating misuse, the Iranian Government has formally suspended the visa-free facility for Indian nationals effective November 22, 2025.

## SUPREME COURT

### SC ASKS CENTRE, DGCA TO RESPOND TO PETITION SEEKING TO CHECK TO CONTROL UNPREDICTABLE FLUCTUATIONS IN AIRFARES



**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India (AERAI) to a petition seeking binding regulatory guidelines to control the "unpredictable fluctuations" in airfare and ancillary charges imposed by private airlines in India.

Issuing notices to the respondents, a Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta asked them to file their replies. Activist S Laxminarayanan's petition that sought to establish a robust, independent regulator that ensures transparency and passenger protection across the civil aviation sector and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

"Arbitrary fare hikes during emergencies deny vulnerable citizens this right, especially when they are compelled to choose air travel out of necessity rather than luxury," the petitioner submitted. In a Constitutional Republic governed by the rule of law, the State cannot remain a mute spectator to this ongoing violation of rights, it said, asserting that "The State has a positive obligation under Article 21 to ensure that essential services like air travel remain fair, affordable, transparent, and uninterrupted."

### 40% OF NEW BIHAR MLAS HAVE NO COLLEGE DEGREE, WOMEN COMPRISE 12% OF TOTAL HOUSE STRENGTH



**Diary Times Desk :** Around 12 per cent of the newly elected MLAs in Bihar are women, a marginal increase from the last polls, while around 40 per cent members in the new Assembly do not have college degrees, according to a report by think-tank PRS Legislative Research.

The report also showed that the number of MLAs aged more than 55 years has increased following the Bihar Assembly elections.

The ruling NDA decimated the Mahagathbandhan by winning 202 seats in the 243-member House to retain power in Bihar. The scale of the victory of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) can be gauged from the fact that its two main constituents — BJP and JD(U) — clocked a nearly 85 per cent strike rate in 101 seats each they had contested.

An analysis of the results by PRS Legislative Research showed the 243-member Assembly will now have 29 women MLAs, which is around 12 per cent of the total strength of the House. The previous Assembly had 26 women members.



## DELHI BLAST: 'ACTIVE CO-CONSPIRATOR' ARRESTED BY NIA FROM JAMMU AND KASHMIR'S SRINAGAR



**Diary Times Desk :** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested another Jammu and Kashmir resident from Srinagar in connection with the blast near the Red Fort metro station in Delhi that claimed 15 lives and injured dozens, said officials on Monday. The accused, identified as Jasir Bilal Wani alias Danish, worked closely with suicide bomber Dr Umar Un Nabi and had allegedly provided him 'technical' assistance. Wani, who is a resident of Qazigund in the Anantnag district, was an active co-conspirator behind the attack, said officials, adding that he modified drones and attempted to make rockets ahead of the blast in the national capital. He has now been brought to Delhi, where he will be interrogated at the NIA headquarters.

In its statement, the probe agency said it continues to explore various angles to unravel the conspiracy behind the bombing.

## NDA FIRMS UP FORMULA FOR BIHAR GOVERNMENT FORMATION

**Diary Times Desk :** The NDA is expected to apply the same formula for portfolio allocation that it used during ticket distribution, coalition insiders indicated. Under the emerging arrangement Nitish Kumar's JD(U) will continue to hold the Chief Minister's post. Meanwhile, the BJP and Chirag Paswan's LJP (Ram Vilas) are each likely to secure one Deputy Chief Minister position, signalling a balanced power-sharing structure within the alliance. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Sunday held a series of meetings with National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders at his official residence in Patna to discuss the formation of a new government after the ruling alliance secured a three-fourth majority, winning 202 out of 243 seats, in the Assembly elections.

Union minister of state for home Nityanand Rai and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief and Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha were among those who met Nitish.

## INDIA WILL TREAT TERRORISTS AND THEIR BACKERS ALIKE, SAYS ARMY CHIEF

**Diary Times Desk :** Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Monday asserted that the country will continue to treat terrorists and their supporters without distinction and respond firmly to any act of terrorism. Gen Dwivedi said India is committed to progress and development, but will not hesitate to act against those who attempt to derail its path.

"India focuses on progress and prosperity. If someone creates obstacles in our course, then we will have to take some action against them," he said, in a firm message to Pakistan

Reiterating New Delhi's long-standing stance, he added, "Talks and terror can't go together; blood and water cannot flow together. We support a peaceful process and will cooperate with it. Until then, we will treat terrorists and their sponsors alike." Hinting at Pakistan's nuclear posturing, Gen Dwivedi said India is no longer susceptible to strategic coercion. "Today, India is in a position where it is not scared of any blackmailing," he said, stressing that the country's "new normal" in counterterrorism operations will pose a significant challenge to Pakistan if it continues supporting anti-India groups.

## AS CRACKS APPEAR IN LALU YADAV'S CLAN, A LOOK AT OTHER POLITICAL FAMILY FEUDS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Rashtriya Janata Dal's massive defeat in the 2025 Bihar Assembly election exposed what was perhaps already known - an unprecedented feud within veteran politician and party patriarch Lalu Prasad Yadav's family. The party, once dominant with 75 seats in 2020, collapsed to 25 seats in 2025, its worst performance in 15 years. As the Mahagathbandhan shrank to only 35 seats, cracks inside the Yadav household came out in the open. Lalu's second daughter Rohini Acharya, left the family home in Patna, accusing her brother Tejashwi Yadav and his close aides Sanjay Yadav and Ramiz Khan of harassment. She claimed she was abused, hit with slippers, and told to leave. Three sisters, Rajlakshmi, Ragini and Chanda, also left with their families.

Lalu's elder son Tej Pratap Yadav, expelled by Lalu earlier this year for six years, publicly backed Rohini and attacked Tejashwi's aides. Tej Pratap was ousted after Lalu Prasad accused him of "ignoring moral values" following a Facebook post about a long-term relationship that the family said damaged their image. Tej Pratap then launched a separate outfit, Janshakti Janata Dal, and lost the Mahua seat in the recent polls.



## NEARLY 200 UNDER SCANNER IN 'WHITE-COLLAR' TERROR MODULE TIED TO DELHI BLAST

**Diary Times Desk :** Around 200 people are reportedly under the scanner of investigating agencies in the Faridabad-based "white-collar" terror module linked to the Red Fort blast.

This development comes after a review of call records and online transactions allegedly connected to the three key accused in the case.

Sources said those under the scanner include former students and colleagues from Al-Falah University, shopkeepers, diagnostic centre owners and imams of madrasas.

Three of the key accused, including Dr Umar Nabi, who died in the explosion, had reportedly made online payments to locals as part of the efforts to build their support and strengthen the network.

## 'WHERE DO YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR?' COURT WARNS TELANGANA SPEAKER

**Diary Times Desk :** An irked Supreme Court has given Telangana Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar two weeks to rule on disqualification petitions pending against 10 lawmakers who jumped from the Bharat Rashtra Samithi to the ruling Congress between March and June last year.

This was after the 2023 Assembly election, in which the BRS - in power since the state was formed in 2014 - was thumped by the Congress.

A bench led by Chief Justice BR Gavai directed Gaddam Kumar - whom the BRS has accused of 'deliberate inaction' - to "finish it (the hearing) by next week or face contempt of court" after an earlier three-month ultimatum handed down on July 31 went unheeded. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who represented the Speaker, assured the court a decision will be made in two weeks.

The Speaker has to decide, the Chief Justice said, where wants to celebrate New Year's Eve, as the court heard arguments for contempt of court action against Kumar for ignoring its orders.

And, on September 29 - two months into the first deadline - the petitions were picked up, starting with those dealing with Prakash Goud, Kale Yadaiah, Mahipal Reddy, and BK Reddy.



## 18 MEMBERS OF HYDERABAD FAMILY – 3 GENERATIONS – KILLED IN SAUDI BUS CRASH

**Diary Times Desk :** Eighteen members of one family, nine of them children, are among the 42 Indian pilgrims killed in a road accident near Medina in Saudi Arabia. The Hyderabad-based family was to return on Saturday, their relatives told NDTV.

"My sister-in-law, brother-in-law, their son, three daughters and their children went (for Umrah). They left eight days ago. The Umrah was done, and they were returning to Medina. Around 1.30 am, the accident occurred, and the bus was destroyed in the fire. They were supposed to return on Saturday," Mohammed Asif said.

Asif said they were in constant touch with their relatives before the tragedy struck. "Eighteen members of one family -- nine adults and nine children -- have died. It is a terrible tragedy for us," he said.

Asif identified some of his relatives as Naseeruddin (70), his wife Akhter Begum (62), son Salauddin (42), daughters Amina (44), Rizwana (38), and Shabana (40), and their children.

## 'UNELECTED, ILLEGAL REGIME'S SHAM OF A VERDICT': SHEIKH HASINA'S SON

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina's son has called her trial and sentencing a "sham" under an "unelected regime". Sajeeb Wazed, who is in Washington DC, told NDTV on phone the very short 140-day trial of the former prime minister was pre-decided at a time when the country did not have a parliament.

"This is an unelected regime. The government itself is completely unconstitutional, unelected and illegal," Wazed told NDTV.

Though he clarified India has not given any assurance on protecting his mother, he expressed confidence that considering what has happened in Bangladesh, it "would be illegal of India to comply with such an illegal [extradition] request".

"An important trial was conducted and finished within something like 140 days from start to finish, which is almost impossible. They have to amend laws to enable these trials to be fast-tracked, which only parliament can do. And right now there is no parliament," he said.

A special tribunal in Bangladesh for "crimes against humanity" on Monday sentenced Hasina to death over her Awami League government's crackdown on student-led protests last year. The tribunal described the 78-year-old Awami League leader.

## DELHI SUICIDE BLAST DEATH COUNT RISES TO 15



**Diary Times Desk :** The death count in the November 10 blast near the Red Fort rose to 15 after two more injured persons succumbed to their injuries at the LNJP Hospital here, an official said on Monday.

The victims have been identified as Lukmaan (50) and Vinay Pathak (50), a senior police officer said.

Another victim, Bilal, had died during treatment last Thursday to bringing the toll to 13. With the latest fatalities, the number of those killed in the high-intensity explosion has now climbed to 15, with many others still undergoing treatment, the officer said.

The Delhi Police said they received information about the latest deaths from the hospital, adding that post-mortem examinations will be conducted soon.

## NO BAN ON CONSTRUCTION IN DELHI, SUPREME COURT SAYS "NO TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS"

**Diary Times Desk :** Refusing a blanket ban on construction in Delhi and the National Capital Region despite 'very poor' AQI, the Supreme Court on Monday said that environmental concerns need to be balanced with development.

The Bench, led by Chief Justice Of India BR Gavai, said it is not inclined to issue "bold directions" to curb the rapidly rising pollution levels in Delhi, while maintaining that it does not comprise of experts.

The Bench also sought a plan from the Centre by November 19 that aims at tackling the air pollution crisis. Stressing the futility of temporary solutions, the top court said the Centre has to formulate long-term solutions to tackle the menace.

**Centre Must Take The Lead: Top Court**  
The Bench noted that lakhs of families depend on construction and allied activity for livelihood, and a sweeping ban would have severe socio-economic consequences.

## "WE REMAIN IN EMOTIONAL MODE, NOT ELECTION MODE": PM MODI AFTER BIHAR WIN

**Diary Times Desk :** In a stirring address at the Sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture, organised by the Express Group, Prime Minister Narendra Modi turned the spotlight on Bihar's turbulent past and promising future, lamenting what could have been under leaders like Lalu Prasad Yadav while championing a vision of compassionate, development-driven governance.

Delivered amid the prestigious awards for journalistic excellence, PM Modi's speech wove personal anecdotes with pointed political critique, emphasising that true leadership thrives on empathy, not perpetual campaigning.

"Lalu Yadav could have done a lot for Bihar if he wanted," PM Modi remarked. "But he prioritised jungle raj."

The reference to the infamous era of lawlessness under Yadav's rule in the 1990s evoked nods from the audience, many of whom recalled the state's descent into chaos-kidnappings.

## "INDIA ISN'T JUST AN EMERGING MARKET, IT'S AN EMERGING MODEL TOO": PM MODI

**Diary Times Desk :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said that India is not just an emerging market but an emerging model for the world, and the country is charting a path toward a vibrant and promising future.

Delivering the sixth Ramnath Goenka Lecture here, PM Modi also referred to the ruling NDA's sweeping success in the Bihar assembly election and said people had given their verdict in favour of the politics of development.

He said in 2022, the European crisis significantly disrupted global supply chains and energy markets, affecting economies worldwide. Despite these challenges, India's economy demonstrated strong momentum, achieving robust growth in 2022-23. "At a time when the world grapples with uncertainty and fears of disruption, India is charting a path toward a vibrant and promising future. India isn't just an emerging market, it's an emerging model, too," PM Modi said.

## OMCS CLINCH LARGE LNG IMPORT DEAL WITH US FOR 2026

**Diary Times Desk :** India's state-owned oil companies have concluded a one-year deal for imports of 2.2 million tonnes per annum of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in 2026 from the US, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri said on Monday. The imports, accounting for close to 10% of the country's annual imports, will be sourced from the US Gulf Coast, the first structured contract of US LPG for the Indian market. The deal follows the commitment expressed by India to scale up energy imports from the US, with which the country is negotiating a bilateral trade agreement (BTA), even as most Indian goods face an additional tariff of 50% in the US over the most favoured nation rates.

"This purchase is based on using Mount Belvieu as the benchmark for LPG purchases and a team of our officials from IndianOil, BPCL, and HPCL had visited the US and engaged in discussions with major US producers over the last few months, which have been concluded now," the minister said in a post on X.



## DRAMATIC VIDEO SHOWS US STORE OWNER FIRING AT MASKED ROBBERS, CHASING THEM INTO STREETS

**Diary Times Desk :**

Five masked robbers barged into a jewellery store in Madera, California, only to fly out of the front door dramatically, thanks to the store owner's quick thinking and bravery.

At around 5:30 pm (local time) on Thursday, November 13, 2025, the robbers, wearing black masks and gloves, entered Olivia's Fine Jewelry store and began smashing glass cases to steal valuable jewellery, the New York Post reported.

A store clerk attempted to intervene, pushing one of the thieves back over a counter. Moments later, the robbers began running when the store owner emerged with a gun and opened fire, chasing the robbers out of the store and into the streets.

They were still able to make off with \$170,000 in gems, the report mentioned, citing the authorities.

## TURKEY SEEKS TO HOST NEXT COP AS CO-PRESIDENCY PLANS FALTER

**Diary Times Desk :** Turkey wants to host next year's UN climate change talks and is ready to organise the event alone if there is no agreement on sharing the event, a Turkish diplomatic source told AFP Sunday (November 16).

Australia and Turkey are locked in a stalemate over who should host the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP31) in 2026.

The host is selected by consensus, so unless Australia or Turkey withdraws or the countries agree to share the conference, both will miss out. A decision should be made at the current COP conference in Belem, Brazil.

If no consensus is reached, the summit would revert to Bonn, the German city that hosts the UN's climate secretariat.

The Turkish source said discussions with Australia at the UN General Assembly's annual meetings in September yielded initial proposals for joint management of the event and shared high-level meetings.

## WHAT'S FUELLING ANTI-GRAFT PROTESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

**Diary Times Desk :** More than 200,000 protesters turned out on Monday for the second day of an anti-graft rally in the Philippines, part of a wave of demonstrations since August demanding accountability for suspected corruption in flood-control projects.

How Did It Start?

In August, President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. revealed an internal audit exposing serious irregularities in multi-billion-peso flood control projects.

These projects have been thrust into the spotlight in recent months after accusations of mismanagement emerged during a period of monsoon rains and storms that inundated towns and cities across the natural disaster-prone nation.

## ISRAEL PUSHES US TO CLOSE DOOR ON PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD BEFORE UNSC VOTE

**Diary Times Desk :** Israel is engaged in a last-ditch bid to change the wording of a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution on the next phase of United States President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan that was recently amended to mention a "credible pathway" to Palestinian statehood.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told his cabinet on Sunday that his opposition to a Palestinian state had "not changed one bit", one day before the UNSC votes on the US-drafted resolution, which would mandate a transitional administration and an international stabilisation force (ISF) in Gaza.

Israeli public broadcaster Kan reported on Sunday that Netanyahu's government was engaged in a last-minute diplomatic push to alter the draft resolution, which the US had changed to include more defined language about Palestinian self-determination under pressure from Arab and Muslim countries expected to contribute troops to the ISF.

The draft now says that "conditions may be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood" after reforms to the Palestinian Authority are "faithfully carried out and Gaza redevelopment has advanced".



## TREASURY SECRETARY SAYS 'WE WILL SEE' ABOUT \$2,000 REBATE CHECKS TO AMERICANS AS SUPREME COURT WEIGHS TRUMP'S TARIFFS

**Diary Times Desk :** Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that President Donald Trump's proposal to issue \$2,000 tariff rebate checks to most Americans would require Congress' approval.

"We will see. We need legislation for that," Bessent said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" when asked about rebate checks, adding that "Those could go out."

Trump has repeatedly suggested using tariffs to fund rebate checks in recent months, including in a Truth Social post last weekend. "People that are against Tariffs are FOOLS! ... A dividend of at least \$2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone," he wrote. Trump first floated the idea of Americans potentially receiving a portion of the tariff revenue in July.

The payments would be "for working families" and would have an income limit, Bessent said Sunday.

## US POLITICIAN REACTS AFTER BEING CAUGHT STARING AT X-RATED PHOTOS DURING FLIGHT

**Diary Times Desk :** Brad Sherman, a politician in the United States, has responded after being caught staring at explicit images on an electronic device during a flight. The images, taken by fellow passengers, went viral on social media.

The images of 71-year-old Democratic lawmaker watching "porn" were shared on X by an account named Dear White Staffers (@dearwhitestaff), and the post gained more than 15 million views, thousands of reposts and likes.

"Why did California Congressman Brad Sherman feel it was appropriate to look at porn on his iPad during a flight today? His district deserves better representation than this!!" was the caption of the post read.

The politician denied watching porn and also blamed Elon Musk for the algorithm of X (formerly Twitter) for showing such explicit media more on the social media platform.



## DONALD TRUMP'S NEXT MOVE: NO GREEN CARDS FOR BANNED COUNTRIES, EVEN IF YOU'RE ALREADY IN US

**Diary Times Desk :** The Donald Trump administration is plotting a new crackdown: green cards could soon be off-limits for immigrants from the same countries already hit by his sweeping travel ban.

The draft policy documents, according to The New York Times, show plans to block green card and visa approvals for nationals from 12 countries in Africa and the Middle East, even if they are already living in the U.S.

The targeted countries—Afghanistan, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen—have been under a travel ban since June, when President Trump signed the order citing national security concerns.

Now, the administration aims to expand that policy by limiting permanent residency for people from those nations, based on claims that they don't provide sufficient identity verification or share reliable security data. "Some countries might not share enough vetting and screening information."





**ISRAELI-RUN ENTITY ILLEGALLY FLYING PALESTINIANS OUT OF GAZA: REPORTS**

**Diary Times Desk :** An Israeli-run organization is coordinating the secretive flights transporting Palestinians from the Gaza Strip abroad via Ramon Airport in southern Israel, the Israeli daily Haaretz reported Sunday.

On Thursday, South Africa granted a 90-day visa exemption for 153 Palestinians who arrived from Kenya to seek asylum in the country, although they were initially denied entry due to a lack of travel documents and customary departure stamps in their passports.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the intelligence services are investigating the entity behind the charter plane that landed in Johannesburg carrying dozens of Palestinians without official travel documents.

According to Haaretz, an association run by Tomer Janar Lind, who holds dual Israeli-Estonian citizenship, sells Palestinians in Gaza seats on chartered flights heading to far-off countries such as Indonesia, Malaysia and South Africa for around \$2,000.

The association's website claims it was founded in Germany and maintains offices in East Jerusalem. However, the newspaper's investigation found that it is actually registered in Estonia and operates through a front consulting company.

### 'ISRAEL' STOLE OVER 17,000 ARTIFACTS FROM HISTORIC GAZA MUSEUM: REPORTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Palestinian officials said 'Israeli' forces stole over 17,000 archaeological artifacts from the Al-Basha Palace Museum (Qasr al-Basha) in Gaza City during the two-year-long assault.

Hamouda al-Dahdar, the supervisor of the archaeological restoration of Al-Basha Palace said that the museum contained more than 17,000 items, primarily from the Mamluk era, before their disappearance, according to Palestinian sources.

He attributed the theft primarily to 'Israeli' forces, noting that only 20 artifacts recovered from the site's rubble.

### RUSSIA OFFERS SU-57 NOZZLE UPGRADE IN EXPORT DRIVE

**Diary Times Desk :** Russia is showing off a potential stealth upgrade for the Su-57's radar-exposed engine nozzles inside the country's pavilion on the static display here as part of a wider propulsion update on behalf of the Sukhoi fighter.

The Su-57 debuted in 2010 with non-stealthy, axis-symmetric nozzles behind a pair of AL-41F turbofan engines. This comparatively outdated configuration remained unchanged even as the fighter, codenamed by NATO as Felon, entered service in 2020.

But Russian industry has been working to update the propulsion system to modern standards. Pictures appeared on social media channels last year of a Su-57 prototype equipped with a pair of canted, 2D thrust-vectoring nozzles.

### BANGLADESH ISSUES SHOOT-AT-SIGHT ORDER AHEAD OF SHEIKH HASINA VERDICT: WHAT ARE HER FIVE CHARGES?

**Diary Times Desk :** Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is facing charges of crimes against humanity linked to last year's student-led uprising that toppled her 15-year rule.

Security has been tightened across Bangladesh ahead of a special tribunal's verdict against ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who faces charges of crimes against humanity linked to last year's uprising.

Dhaka police chief Sheikh Mohammad Sazzat Ali issued a "shoot-on-sight" order against anyone attempting to torch vehicles or throw crude bombs. The directive comes after nearly 50 arson attacks, mostly targeting vehicles, and dozens of bomb explosions were reported nationwide in the past week. Two people were killed in the attacks, local media said.

Authorities also requested army deployment around the Supreme Court ahead of the tribunal proceedings. Prosecutors at the International Crimes Tribunal have sought the death penalty for Hasina, who is in exile in India, and for former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan.



### VOTERS IN ECUADOR REJECT RETURN OF FOREIGN MILITARY BASES

**Diary Times Desk :** Voters in Ecuador have rejected a proposal to allow the return of foreign military bases, according to early referendum results with a count of close to 90 percent of ballots showing nearly two-thirds voting "no" on the proposal.

The loss on Sunday was a blow to President Daniel Noboa, who has said foreign cooperation, including shared or foreign bases within the country, is central to fighting organised crime.

A separate measure to convene an assembly to rewrite the constitution also had more than 61 percent rejection, with nearly 88 percent of votes counted.

Noboa acknowledged the defeat in a post on X.

"We respect the will of the Ecuadorian people," he wrote.

"Our commitment does not change; it strengthens. We will continue to fight tirelessly for the country that you deserve, with the tools that we have."

### MQM LEADER SLAMS COALITION GOVT OF PAKISTAN OVER THE PASSAGE OF 27TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Muttahida Qaumi Movement's founding leader and Supremo Altaf Hussain, during his 346th public address via TikTok, sharply criticised the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for endorsing and facilitating the approval of the 27th Constitutional Amendment.

He asserted that both parties have undermined the essence of the Constitution, harmed the judiciary and justice system, and betrayed their own commitments and manifestos.

He reminded listeners that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif frequently quotes poet Habib Jalib's verse denouncing an unjust constitution. Yet, according to Hussain, he now advocates for a system with a weak prime minister, no independent judiciary, and no accountability for the ruling families.

He remarked that on February 8, 2024, the populace supported Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Imran Khan, but the election outcomes were reportedly manipulated under Form 47.

He questioned whether PML-N and PPP honoured or disrespected the people's vote by recognising the results and forming a coalition government. He further claimed that both parties have dismantled the justice system while professing to uphold democracy.

## PARIAH TO PEACE BROKER: SAUDI CROWN PRINCE RECLAIMS WORLD STAGE IN US VISIT

**Diary Times Desk :** On his first White House visit since the killing of Saudi critic Jamal Khashoggi sparked global outrage, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is on a mission to reclaim his place on the world stage and prove to President Donald Trump that backing his forceful leadership was worth the gamble.

Tuesday's meeting between Trump and Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler -- widely known as MBS -- underscores a relationship built on strategic interests that have endured even as the uproar around the 2018 killing of Khashoggi, an insider-turned-critic, recedes into history.

Seven years on, MBS now casts himself as a broker of peace, repairing ties with Iran, pushing for a Gaza ceasefire and welcoming Syria back into the Arab fold, a striking pivot from a prince once branded reckless for plunging into Yemen's war.

At home, in less than a decade, the 40-year-old has unleashed a social revolution unseen since his grandfather, King Abdulaziz, forged the kingdom from desert tribes and sealed its fateful alliance with Washington.



## WILL THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW ASYLUM PLANS WORK?

**Diary Times Desk :** Ten weeks ago Sir Keir Starmer sent Shabana Mahmood to run the Home Office precisely so that she would be radical in overhauling the UK's immigration system.

Mahmood's torrent of new policy announcements in recent days are certainly bold - from limiting refugees to temporary stays, to overhauling human rights law to help increase deportations, and threatening countries with visa bans unless they accept the return of criminals and illegal immigrants.

But the plans are controversial too. The Refugee Council, which supports asylum-seekers, says making refugee status temporary is both "highly impractical" as well as "inhumane".

The home secretary's team are delighted at the newspaper headlines and TV coverage their announcements have secured in recent days, yet they know that was the easy bit.

## AN EARLY TEST OF A MAMDANI-TRUMP RELATIONSHIP? SECURITY CLEARANCE.

**Diary Times Desk :** Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani will need a top-level security clearance from the federal government before he takes office. Whether President Donald Trump's administration grants it will be one of the first tests of how the democratic socialist and a hostile government in Washington interact.

In the weeks between his decisive win and taking office at the beginning of the year, Mamdani can expect to be vetted by federal law enforcement for a clearance that allows him to be briefed on threats to the city.

The results of that review will speak volumes about the dynamic between them going forward and will offer clues into how their public clashes might bleed into the nuts-and-bolts collaboration between local and federal law enforcement.

## LANDSLIDES IN CENTRAL JAVA KILL 18, WITH RESCUERS STILL DIGGING FOR SURVIVORS

**Diary Times Desk :** Rain-triggered landslides in two regions of Indonesia's Central Java province last week have killed at least 18 people, authorities said on Monday, as emergency teams continued to dig through layers of earth and debris.

In the city of Cilacap, a landslide buried a dozen houses in Cibeunying village, the national disaster mitigation agency said, adding that the search was complicated because victims were trapped 3 to 8 metres (10 to 25 feet) underground.

The Cilacap slide alone has left at least 16 people dead and seven missing, said M Abdullah, chief of the search and rescue agency's local division.

Excavators were deployed to dig through dirt in Cilacap, footage from news channel KompasTV showed on Monday.

Separately, two people died and 27 were missing after a landslide on Saturday in the region of Banjarnegara in Central Java, the disaster mitigation agency said on Monday. As many as 30 houses as well as farms were damaged, it said.

The Southeast Asian country's wet season started in September and is likely to last until April, bringing a high risk of extreme rainfall and flooding, the weather agency said.



## GERMANY'S KLINGBEIL AT LAST REACHES BEIJING AS TRADE GULF WIDENS, SUPPLY CHAINS WOBBLE

**Diary Times Desk :** Germany's finance minister will finally become the new coalition's first cabinet minister to visit China on Monday, under pressure to show the government has a handle on China policy as a record trade gap widens and supply chains wobble.

More than six months after the conservative-led coalition took office, Lars Klingbeil heads to Beijing at last, after Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl called off his own visit last month when China rejected most meetings on his proposed agenda.

German officials emphasised that Klingbeil would be discussing big trade issues, such as Chinese limits on rare earths. A finance ministry source said positions had been agreed in advance with EU officials responsible for Germany's trade policy as a member of the bloc.

But it is also important at home that the coalition shows it can finally get a hearing in Beijing and a grip on the relationship.

## UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO VOTE ON TRUMP PEACE PLAN FOR GAZA

**Diary Times Desk :** The UN Security Council is expected to vote on a draft resolution backing Donald Trump's peace plan for Gaza.

The text, submitted by the US, would give a mandate for the deployment of an International Stabilization Force (ISF) and to set up transitional governance there.

The US says multiple unnamed countries have offered to contribute to the ISF, though it is unclear whether it would be required to ensure Hamas disarms or function as a peacekeeping force.

Its formation is a central plank of Trump's 20-point plan which last month brought a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas in their two-year war.

The draft also raises the possibility of a Palestinian state - something Israel strongly opposes.

There have been intense negotiations over the draft text of the resolution, with Washington warning that any vote against it could lead to a return to fighting with Israel.

As well as authorising an ISF, which it says would work with Israel and Egypt - Gaza's southern neighbour - the draft also calls for creation of a newly trained Palestinian police in Gaza. Until now, the police there have operated under the authority of Hamas.



## "INTEREST WAS TREMENDOUS": IAF EXPECTS STRONG RESPONSE FROM FOREIGN BUYERS FOR LCA TEJAS AT DUBAI AIR SHOW 2025

**Diary Times Desk :** Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS) Air Marshal Narmadeshwar Tiwari on Monday said the Indian Air Force (IAF) expects strong interest from foreign buyers in the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas at the Dubai Air Show 2025.

The event is taking place in Dubai's Al Maktoum airport from November 17 to 21 and India has sent both the Tejas and Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) at the request of UAE authorities.

Speaking at the India Pavilion, he said India's participation is about the growing defence cooperation between the two countries at multiple levels. Air Marshal Tiwari said, "We sent the Tejas as well as the Surya Kiran Aerobatics Team on the request of the UAE authorities. We have a very good cooperation with them, both at the strategic level as well as the service level."

## DOZENS DIE IN DR CONGO MINE AFTER MAKESHIFT BRIDGE COLLAPSES

**Diary Times Desk :** Rescuers are searching for survivors after a bridge collapsed at a cobalt mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo, killing at least 32 people. Unauthorised miners forced their way into the southern Kalando mine on Saturday despite being banned from the site, said local official Roy Kaumba Mayonde. Military personnel guarding the site then reportedly fired guns, causing the bridge to collapse after panicked miners rushed across it, government mining agency SAEMAPE said.

The military has not responded to this allegation.

Such accidents are not uncommon in DR Congo, where around 1.5 to 2 million people work in the unregulated artisanal mining industry, which feeds the global demand for copper, cobalt and other minerals.

Two of the miners injured at Kalando mine, located in the village of Mulondo, sustained bullet wounds, Olivier Kayumba, a journalist who visited the scene on Sunday, said.

Mr Kayumba told the BBC that one miner had been shot in the thigh and the other in the hand.

## UKRAINE TO BUY 'UP TO 100' FRENCH FIGHTER JETS, ELYSEE PALACE ANNOUNCES

**Diary Times Desk :** Ukraine will purchase "up to 100" French-made Rafale fighter jets as well as anti-air defenses and drones from France, the Elysee Palace confirmed, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Paris on Monday.

"We will have the greatest air defense system, one of the greatest in the world," the Ukrainian president told reporters after signing the letter of intent with French President Emmanuel Macron at the Villacoublay Air Force Base southwest of Paris on Monday morning.

At a news conference, Zelensky told reporters that the deal would include eight air defense systems and six launchers in what he described as an "historic agreement."

Macron said that some of the deliveries of drones, interceptor drones and guided bombs, would come in the "very short term" with manufacturing commitments made for the coming three years. The Elysee Palace said that the purchases covered by the letter of intent would span the next 10 years.

Macron said that Ukraine will receive a "new generation" of the SAMP/T missile interceptor - largely comparable to the US-made Patriot system - which will be available in 2026.

## WHAT MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE'S POLITICAL REVOLT MAY SAY ABOUT TRUMP

**Diary Times Desk :** Marjorie Taylor Greene did something politicians almost never do: She said she was sorry.

The Georgia representative on Sunday repudiated her role in inflaming the country's poisoned politics in her latest sharp break with President Donald Trump and his provocative rhetoric, furthering her own intriguing political reinvention.

"I would like to say, humbly, I'm sorry for taking part in the toxic politics; it's very bad for our country," Greene told CNN's Dana Bash in a frank interview on "State of the Union."

Trump dismissed her concerns, telling reporters Sunday, "I don't think her life is in danger. ... Frankly, I don't think anybody cares about her," and referring to the Georgia lawmaker as "Marjorie 'Traitor' Greene."

## TRUMP CALLS ON HOUSE REPUBLICANS TO VOTE TO RELEASE EPSTEIN FILES

**Diary Times Desk :** US President Donald Trump has urged lawmakers in his own party to vote to release files relating to the late convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Trump wrote on Sunday night that Republicans in the House of Representatives should do so "because we have nothing to hide".

It is a striking reversal for Trump after weeks of saying the clamour for a vote on the release was a Democratic-driven distraction.

There has been a slow drip feed of documents concerning the disgraced financier by House Democrats, some of which reference Trump, who has always denied any link to Epstein's sex abuse and trafficking.

But details of his and other prominent figures' past relationship with Epstein have fuelled speculation and led to a public spat with one of Trump's staunchest supporters.

## RUSSIAN STRIKES KILL 4 AMID CLAIMS OF FRESH GAINS ACROSS E. UKRAINE

**Diary Times Desk :** At least four people were killed and 15 others injured in Russian strikes on Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv and southwestern Odesa regions, local authorities said Monday, as Moscow claimed to have fresh gains.

"According to preliminary data, three people were killed, 13 more were injured, including four children," said a statement by Ukraine's State Emergency Service (DSNS) on Telegram.

It noted that missile strikes targeted a residential area in the city of Balakliia, situated about 70 kilometers (43.4 miles) southeast of the country's second-largest city of Kharkiv.

The statement said that residential buildings, as well as cars, high-rise apartments, and a kindergarten, were damaged in the attack, adding that all fires that broke out as a result of the attack were promptly extinguished.

Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Synyehubov said that units from the State Emergency Service continue to work at the site of the attack.

Meanwhile, Vitalii Karabanov, the head of Balakliia's city military administration, claimed two missiles hit the city.



## PBS, DEFUNDED BY TRUMP, SAYS 'WE'RE STILL HERE' WITH BIG

### NEW KEN BURNS DOCUMENTARY

**Diary Times Desk :** Sunday's premiere of Ken Burns' new PBS series "The American Revolution" doubles as an attention-grabbing statement, months after President Donald Trump succeeded in stripping away all federal funding for public broadcasting in the US.

The message is clear: "We are still here."

The documentary, which airs over six consecutive nights, is "a really big moment" for PBS, said Paula Kerger, the organization's CEO.

There has been some marketplace confusion as a result of Trump's campaign to defund public media.

Since the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) is winding down as a consequence of the funding cut, "people thought that meant that we were gone," Kerger said.

## INSIDE THE OLD CHURCH WHERE ONE TRILLION WEBPAGES ARE BEING SAVED

**Diary Times Desk :**

Just blocks from the Presidio of San Francisco, the national park at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge, stands a gleaming white building, its façade adorned with eight striking gothic columns.

But what was once the home of a Christian Scientist church, is now the holy grail of Internet history – the Internet Archive, a non-profit library run by a group of software engineers and librarians, who for nearly 30 years have been saving the web one page at a time.

Inside the stained-glass-adorned sanctuary, the sounds of church sermons have been replaced by the hum of servers, where the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine preserves web pages.

The Wayback Machine, a tool used by millions every day, has proven critical for academics and journalists searching for historical information on what corporations, people and governments have published online in the past, long after their websites have been updated or changed.

For many, the Wayback Machine is like a living history of the internet, and it just logged its trillionth page last month.

## UNCLE SAM IS OUTPERFORMING THE S&P 500

**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump administration is investing in publicly traded companies – and it's sending stocks soaring higher.

Under President Donald Trump, the US government has taken equity stakes in companies including Intel (INTC), MP Materials (MP), Lithium Americas (LAC) and Trilogly Metals (TMQ).

Investing in public companies is an unusual move that has sparked debate on Wall Street and Capitol Hill about whether the government should be interfering in markets.

Proponents say the equity stakes are a strategic move to support companies in industries that are critical to national security, such as rare earths mining and the production of semiconductor chips. Critics, meanwhile, say it's a heavy-handed use of government influence that is un-American and exposes taxpayers to unnecessary risk.

So far, the government's portfolio is outperforming the S&P 500. Intel shares are up 77% this year.

MP Materials shares have soared 276%. Lithium Americas and Trilogly Metals shares are up 50% and 204%, respectively. The benchmark S&P 500 is up 14.5% this year.



## 'NOW YOU SEE ME: NOW YOU DON'T' MAKES MOVIE AUDIENCES REAPPEAR IN \$21 MILLION DOMESTIC OPENING

**Diary Times Desk :** Lionsgate Films' "Now You See Me: Now You Don't" stole the show at the domestic box office this weekend.

The third installment of the "Now You See Me" franchise earned \$21.3 million. The first "Now You See Me" opened in 2013 to more than \$29 million, according to Box Office Mojo, and "Now You See Me 2" opened to \$22 million in 2016.

Shawn Robbins, director of analytics at Fandango and founder of analytics firm Box Office Theory, credited some of the heist movie's success this weekend to Lionsgate's advertising, which included fan-like edits posted to social media.

"Their marketing team can really be commended for bringing out a very strong young female audience," he said, adding that the studio reported half of ticket buyers were women and a "healthy amount" were over 25 years old.

Coming in behind "Now You See Me: Now You Don't" was Paramount Pictures' "The Running Man" (\$17 million), which was the second adaptation of a 1982 Stephen King novel. Sony Pictures released "The Running Man," starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, in 1987.



## TREASURY SECRETARY SAYS 'WE WILL SEE' ABOUT \$2,000 REBATE CHECKS TO AMERICANS AS SUPREME COURT WEIGHS TRUMP'S TARIFFS

**Diary Times Desk :** Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Sunday that President Donald Trump's proposal to issue \$2,000 tariff rebate checks to most Americans would require Congress' approval.

"We will see. We need legislation for that," Bessent said on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures" when asked about rebate checks, adding that "Those could go out."

Trump has repeatedly suggested using tariffs to fund rebate checks in recent months, including in a Truth Social post last weekend. "People that are against Tariffs are FOOLS! ... A dividend of at least \$2000 a person (not including high income people!) will be paid to everyone," he wrote. Trump first floated the idea of Americans potentially receiving a portion of the tariff revenue in July.

The payments would be "for working families" and would have an income limit, Bessent said Sunday.

"I don't think the Supreme Court wants to wade into a mess like that," Bessent added.





## TRUMP IS RIGHT: HE LOWERED SOME OF YOUR COSTS. BUT HE ALSO MADE MANY PRICES HIGHER

### Diary Times Desk :

President Donald Trump keeps downplaying America's affordability crisis, and he continues to falsely claim that inflation and overall prices have fallen during his second term.

"Our prices are coming down very substantially on groceries and things," Trump told reporters in Florida Sunday evening. "They're already at a much lower level than they were with the last administration."

The truth is annual inflation stood at 3% in September. Grocery prices have gained 1.4% between January and September, and US consumer prices have risen 1.7% on average during Trump's second term, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

But that's just an average. Look a little more closely, and Trump really can claim credit for some falling prices. But he is also to blame for some rising prices.

## JEROME POWELL'S ERA OF CONSENSUS AT THE FED IS OVER

### Diary Times Desk :

Federal Reserve policymakers are split over whether they should continue cutting interest rates, ending a period of consensus that has defined Chair Jerome Powell's leadership of the central bank.

The Fed's latest decision to lower interest rates by a quarter point in late October was opposed by two policymakers: one official who preferred to hold rates steady, and another who wanted a larger rate cut instead. A pair of opposing dissents had not been seen since 2019. Earlier this year, more than one Fed governor cast a dissenting vote for the first time in more than three decades.

The growing divide among Fed officials has spilled out into public speeches in recent days, presenting a challenge for Powell as he works to retain consensus among colleagues.

That division is a direct result of the uncertainty in the US economy and questions around the impacts of President Donald Trump's aggressive trade policy.

## TARGET AND STARBUCKS ARE BOTH LOOKING FOR A TURNAROUND. THEY'RE TEAMING UP ON AN EXCLUSIVE NEW DRINK



### Diary Times Desk :

Two of America's most embattled retail chains are working together to drum up some excitement from customers this holiday season. They sure could use it.

Beginning Monday, a Frozen Peppermint Hot Chocolate drink will be available exclusively at Starbucks cafes inside Target stores. The vast majority of Target's 2,000 locations include a Starbucks, but this marks the first-ever holiday drink collaboration between the two companies.

Retailers have been under immense pressure this year as inflation and tariffs drive consumer sentiment near record lows. A number of consumer brands said on their quarterly earnings calls with Wall Street analysts that low-income consumers in particular are growing increasingly cost-sensitive, and they're cutting back on non-essentials.

That trend has hit Target and Starbucks particularly hard: Target, because it specializes in discretionary items, including impulse buys and home decor; and Starbucks.

## SKY SPORTS DITCHES NEW WOMEN'S TIKTOK ACCOUNT AFTER VIEWERS BRAND IT 'SEXIST' AND 'PATRONIZING'



### Diary Times Desk :

Subscription TV company Sky Sports has scrapped its new TikTok account targeting female sports fans after just three days, after the style and tone of its videos faced backlash.

Social media users labeled the account "condescending," "patronizing" and "sexist," accusing it of perpetuating the problems it purported to address.

"Our intention for Halo was to create a space alongside our existing social channels for new, young, female fans," Sky said in a statement Sunday. "We've listened. We didn't get it right. As a result we're stopping all activity on this account."

"We're learning and remain as committed as ever to creating spaces where fans feel included and inspired."

Complete with a logo drenched in bright sunset colors, the account was initially marketed as "Sky Sports' lil sis," accompanied by a sparkle emoji.

From the start, the intention was to create "not a women's sports account" but "sports content through a female lens," Andy Gill, Sky's audience development and social media head, said in a LinkedIn post announcing the new account, which was launched Thursday.

It was this distinction that ultimately seemed to create the problem. Sky Sports deleted all the content it had posted but clips that resurfaced elsewhere on TikTok show a succession of videos with pastel, sparkly writing overlaid on them. In one widely circulated video, Sky posted a sped-up clip of Manchester City striker Erling Haaland scoring against Bournemouth with the caption "How the matcha + hot girl walk combo hits." In another, it posted a clip of F1 driver Charles Leclerc talking about his recent engagement and fiancée. CNN was unable to independently verify the videos.

## NOVEMBER HEADING TOWARDS BECOMING DRIEST MONTH OF THE YEAR, RECORDS 88 PER CENT RAIN DEFICIT SO FAR

**Diary Times Desk :** With the state witnessing a record 88 per cent rainfall deficit over the last 17 days, November is set to become the driest month of the year. This year, November witnessed very few spells of snowfall and rainfall, due to which all 12 districts of the state reported higher rainfall deficit. While two districts reported 100 per cent rainfall deficit, six districts reported a rainfall deficit of over 90 per cent.

As per the State Meteorological Department, in November, Himachal Pradesh received 1.2 mm rain as compared to 9.9 mm, which was considered normal for the month.

The department's data also revealed that Sirmour and Mandi witnessed a total rainfall deficit of 100 per cent as the two districts did not receive any rainfall or snowfall in November. Sirmour, on an average, witnesses around 3.5 mm rain during November, while Mandi receives 7.3 mm. However, both the districts witnessed zero rainfall over the last 17 days.

## TOURIST FOOTFALL SOARS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH, POPULAR SPOTS GRAPPLE WITH GROWING GARBAGE CRISIS

**Diary Times Desk :** As tourist footfall soars across Himachal Pradesh, its towns are buckling under a growing garbage crisis. The problem is glaring in Dharamsala, Bir Billing, Kullu and Mandi. Even rural areas and relatively untouched regions of Lahaul-Spiti — Sissu and Keylong — are feeling the strain following the opening of the Atal Tunnel, which has dramatically boosted tourist numbers.

Several trekking routes across the state are found littered with garbage. Similar scenes are witnessed along the rivulets, especially between Dharamsala and Palampur, where visitors leave behind heaps of plastic and food waste after having a gala time in the hills.

## POST CABINET APPROVAL TO LOW-IMPACT HOUSING POLICY, FORESTERS REMIND GOVT OF ECO-DISASTERS IN HP, UTTARAKHAND

**Diary Times Desk :** A day after the Punjab Cabinet approved low-impact residential units of minimum 1-acre (4,000 sq yards) in the eco-fragile Kandi areas in the lower Shivalik Hills, foresters have expressed serious concern over the state not waiting for the Centre's approval to the impending declaration of the Eco Sensitive Zone around the Sukhna Wild Life Sanctuary and adhering to the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980.

Referring to the March 2015 communication of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change to the state government, it was pointed out that while taking out the land in Mohali, Ropar, Nawanshahr, Hoshiarpur and Gurdaspur districts from the purview of the Punjab Land Preservation Act 1900, the ministry had pointed out that such areas would be treated as forest for the purpose of the FCA, 1980. "Owners of such land may utilise such delisted PLPA areas for the bona fide use of agriculture and for sustaining livelihood", the ministry had pointed out.



## BATALA MURDER CASE: POLICE ARREST SUSPECT FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OF FIRE

**Diary Times Desk :** Batala police have arrested Manik Kumar, a key suspect in the murder of Jasdeep Singh alias Deep Cheema, who was killed by five persons a few days ago. The arrest was made after a trap was laid on the Batala-Amritsar road late last evening.

The cops said it was a case of internecine warfare as the deceased was aligned to the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria group. This group has a long-standing animosity with gangster Donny Bal. Several firing incidents have been reported from the city due to this rivalry.

Keeping in view the severity of the incident, DIG (Border) Sandeep Goel rushed to Batala from Amritsar yesterday evening.

A police officer said Manik on his way to the city from Amritsar when the cops, who had prior information about his movements, signalled him to stop. However, the accused opened fire following which the cops retaliated.

## PUNJAB BJP TO CONTEST BLOCK COMMITTEE, ZILA PARISHAD ELECTIONS ON PARTY SYMBOL

**Diary Times Desk :** After the Tarn Taran bypoll, the BJP leadership today declared that it would contest the upcoming zila parishad and block samiti elections with enthusiasm on its election symbol.

The decision was taken today at a meeting held under the chairmanship of Punjab BJP's working state president Ashwani Sharma.

The meeting was attended by members of the State Core Committee, state office-bearers, district in-charges and co-in-charges, district presidents, MLAs and former MLAs, MPs and former MPs, and candidates who contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

The decision follows close on the heels of the just-concluded Tarn Taran bypoll, in which the BJP lost its security deposit and slipped to the fifth spot in a poll which was won by AAP's Harmeet Singh Sandhu by 12,091 votes.

### YOUR HOROSCOPE

18-11-2025

<p><b>Aries</b> Today, you will meet old friends, which will refresh old memories. Employed people may be fired from the job due to heavy arguments with colleagues in the workplace. People doing business should thank God for getting financial benefits from the advice of their spouse. Due to irritation in the eyes, you should consult an ophthalmologist.</p>	<p><b>Taurus</b> Today you will get success as your long pending legal proceedings will come in your favor. There will be an atmosphere of happiness in the family as employed people will get progress in their workplace. People doing business should make a budget and spend the money in order to get financial benefits. Housewives should change their food according to health and season.</p>	<p><b>Gemini</b> Today you should include yoga and meditation in your daily routine. For employed people, your responsibilities may increase due to promotion in the workplace. People doing business may suffer financial loss from any unknown person today. There may be difficulty in walking due to nerve pain problems.</p>	<p><b>Cancer</b> Today you will get relief from all your problems due to sudden financial gain. Employed people may have to get scolded by their boss due to being hasty in the workplace. People doing business may face increased difficulties in business due to arguments with business partners. As the problem of foot pain increases, you must consult a specialist doctor.</p>
<p><b>Leo</b> Today, you should offer water to Lord Shiva to avoid difficulties. A heated argument with HR in the workplace will spoil your whole day. Businessmen have to exercise patience, there are chances of improvement in business. Today, you may face stomach and pancreas problems due to eating too much fried food.</p>	<p><b>Virgo</b> Today you should take special control over your speech and behavior. People in employment will get success in the workplace with the help of friends. People doing business will get financial gain due to some special offer, your financial condition will be strengthened. Old diseases of elders in the house may emerge.</p>	<p><b>Libra</b> Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.</p>	<p><b>Scorpio</b> Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.</p>
<p><b>Sagittarius</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Capricorn</b> Today you can invest especially in land and buildings. Employed people may have to travel long distances due to office work, due to which your health may deteriorate. People doing business may face difficulties in repaying business loans due to loss of money. High BP and cholesterol problems will increase the problems of your spouse.</p>	<p><b>Aquarius</b> 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.</p>	<p><b>Pisces</b> 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.</p>



## HSPCB TOLD TO TRACK COMPLIANCE OF ALL READY MIX CONCRETE UNITS IN HARYANA

**Diary Times Desk :** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) to compile district-wise details of all ready mix concrete (RMC) plants operating across the state and verify whether they are complying with environmental norms.

The Tribunal has further instructed the board to take action under the law against any non-compliant units.

The directions came in response to a complaint filed last year by Deepak, a resident of Dadlana village, alleging that several RMC plants in the area were operating illegally and emitting excessive dust, causing air pollution and health hazards for local residents.

## KORIAWAS NAMING CONTROVERSY SETTLED; HOSPITAL TO BEAR RAO TULARAM'S NAME

**Diary Times Desk :** The 191-day-long dispute over the naming of Maharishi Chyawan Medical College, Koriawas, came to an end on Sunday after Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini announced that the general hospital to be built on the college premises would be named "Shaheed Rao Tularam."

The CM made the announcement while addressing the state-level Maharaja Shoor Saini Jayanti celebrations in Narnaul, where he was the chief guest. Residents of Koriawas and nearby villages had been sitting on a dharna outside the medical college for nearly six-and-a-half months, demanding that the institution be named after freedom fighter Rao Tularam. Following the CM's declaration, the protesters called off their agitation.

Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid foundation stones for 19 development projects worth Rs 84 crore, asserting that no effort would be spared in the development of Narnaul. He also announced that unapproved colonies in the region would be regularised as per norms.

## NIA WIDENS NET: 200 PEOPLE FLAGGED IN FARIDABAD WHITE-COLLAR TERROR MODULE PROBE

**Diary Times Desk :** A review of call records and online transactions linked to the three key accused in the Faridabad-based white-collar terror module has placed nearly 200 people under the scanner, rattling investigating agencies. The list includes imams of madrasas, local shopkeepers, diagnostics centre owners and current and former students and colleagues from Al-Falah University.

**The three accused — deceased bomber Dr Umar and arrested doctors Muzammil and Shaheen — had reportedly made online payments to locals as part of efforts to strengthen their network and build support.**

**"The trio had been trying to build a strong network always ready to help anybody in need. Students of the university reveal how they tried to take every Kashmiri student under their wings and vacating their own rooms to help them stay.**



## SUPREME COURT RULES OUT YEAR-ROUND RESTRICTIONS ON POLLUTING ACTIVITIES, FAVOURS LONG-TERM SOLUTION

**Diary Times Desk :** The Supreme Court on Monday ruled out extreme measures such as year-round restrictions on activities prohibited under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) — a set of emergency measures to control pollution — to improve the Air Quality Index (AQI), saying it would affect people's livelihood.

"A large chunk of the population depends on various activities for their livelihood in the capital... We agree with the amicus and the ASG that a long-term solution is needed to tackle the menace of pollution in a graded manner. For that a combined action by the MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change) along with Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana officials, is needed," a Bench led by CJI BR Gavai CJI said. The court's comments came after senior advocate Gopal Sankarnarayanan, representing one of the parties, said Delhi has become a gas chamber and that all activities prohibited from GRAP 1 onwards should be prohibited for the entire year.

## 5-YEAR-OLD BOY DIES AFTER FALLING FROM 22ND FLOOR BALCONY IN GURUGRAM

**Diary Times Desk :** A five-year-old boy died after falling from the 22<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony of a high-rise society in Sector 62 here on Saturday, police said.

**The incident took place at Pioneer Presidia Society around 5:30 pm, when the boy was at home at the care of a domestic help.**

**According to reports, the child accidentally locked himself inside the apartment while his parents—his father, a realtor, and his mother, a doctor—were away.**

**Preliminary investigation reveals that the boy had been playing in a park before the incident. When the caretaker brought him back upstairs via a lift, the boy rushed out ahead of her and slammed the main door. The smart lock reportedly activated automatically, leaving him trapped alone inside.**

## DELHI POLICE SUMMONS AL FALAH CHAIRMAN IN TERROR MODULE, FAKE DOCUMENTS PROBES



**Diary Times Desk :** The Delhi Police has issued two summons to Al Falah University chairman in connection with the ongoing probe into the Faridabad terror module case and the two cases registered against the university for forgery and cheating, an official said on Monday. The summons were sent after investigators found that the university's chairman Javed Ahmad Siddiqui's statement was crucial for clarifying several inconsistencies linked to the functioning of the university and the activities of individuals associated with the institution.

The Crime Branch has already registered two FIRs against the Haryana-based university for cheating and forgery, following serious red flags raised by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) on Saturday.

## France is the world's favorite country to visit, but this is the village the French like best

This week in travel: The world's best cheese and plenty of delicious bread to pair with it, another Italian town offering sweet deals to new residents, plus a medieval village in France that earns top scores from the French.

### France's favorite village

France has for some years been the world's most visited country, with a record 100 million international tourists going there last year to enjoy its culture, food and scenery. In 2022, a Belgian man even cycled 870 miles just to taste a very special croissant in Nice.

But which destination in France is a favorite among the French? Earlier this year, viewers of the TV show "Le Village Préféré des Français 2025" chose Saint Antoine l'Abbaye as France's favorite village for 2025.



Maureen O'Hare

So what's the appeal? This medieval village with cobbled streets and a stunning abbey is tucked away among green rolling hills between Grenoble and Lyon in the southeastern department of Isère. Vercors Regional Natural Park is on the village's

Actor Tony Shalhoub is on a mission to find the world's best, most surprising food items for under \$10. That money nets him a seafood feast in the French port city of Marseille.

doorstep and the whole place bustles with performers, music, shows and stalls for the medieval festival held each year in the first week of August. The hanging cliffside houses of Pont-en-Royans are 14 miles away and the town of Saint-Marcellin, famous for its delicate creamy cheese, is just an eight-mile drive.

The world's best cheese and Germany's best bread

France is rightly celebrated for its cheeses, from Comté to Camembert, but it was an aged Swiss Gruyère that was anointed the finest on the planet at the World Cheese Awards in Switzerland on Thursday.

"Three cheeses on, we could still taste it," was the conclusion of English judge Perry Wakeman, describing its "fruit-funk notes, some slight burn on there like charcoal."

More than 5,200 cheeses from 46 countries were gathered for the judging at Bern's Festhalle venue, the pageant queens growing ever more pungent as the day wore on. CNN was there for all the sights and smells.

Moving from cheese to bread, the iconic French baguette has been hailed by President Emmanuel Macron as "250 grams of magic and perfection," but all is not well in this world of flour and yeast. Even though UNESCO has deemed the baguette an essential cultural icon, France's bread consumption is plummeting, with the daily trip to the boulangerie a disappearing way of life. Here's how the humble bread baton is facing its uncertain future.

France isn't the only European country whose loaves have received UNESCO heritage status, however. German bread culture made the Intangible Cultural Heritage list in 2015 and the country has more than 3,200 officially recognized types of bread. A nutty little number named Nussbröt was named Germany's bread of the year for 2025.

Debra and Eric Stillwell, both in their 60s, relocated from Burbank, California, to France's Dordogne Valley five years ago. The medieval towns, castles and landscapes were what lured them, Eric tells CNN.



# But It's Under Threat

## THIS HIDDEN CANYON IN THE MEDITERRANEAN TEEMS WITH WHALES AND DOLPHINS

One thousand meters (3,281 feet) under the Mediterranean Sea, a crab tangled in plastic is fighting to crawl across the rocky sea bottom. At 240 meters (787 feet) down, an entire population of bamboo coral is being choked by fishing gear.

These are some of the sights Italian marine biologist Ginevra Boldrocchi witnessed during a deep-sea exploration to the subaquatic world known as Caprera Canyon.

Found in the rough, blue waters spanning some 20 to 40 kilometers (12 to 25 miles) off the coast of Sardinia, Italy, Caprera Canyon is a vast underwater valley that supports a variety of marine life and helps keep our oceans in balance.

It is one of the Mediterranean Sea's last great frontiers, and one of its largest and most biodiverse underwater



Scientists have a limited understanding of the life forms dwelling in the canyon's deep waters, according to Francesco Enrichetti, a researcher at the University of Genoa working with One Ocean Foundation on this expedition.

Caprera Canyon is classified as a submarine canyon, which cycles nutrients, stores carbon and provides a habitat for countless marine species, from corals and turtles to sharks and dolphins. "At the moment, the canyon has no kind of protection at all, so we are going to lose refuge for so many endangered species and we will lose a lot of biodiversity," Boldrocchi told CNN.

After conducting research at the surface level for years, One Ocean Foundation realized it was time to look deeper, to uncover what lies hidden on the seafloor of the canyon.

ROV mission Since humans cannot physically dive to the deepest parts of the canyon, Boldrocchi enlisted the help of sailor-turned-engineer Guido Gay, who built a specialized underwater ROV capable of exploring its extreme depths.

"The role of the technology in conservation is very important, because we need to see, to connect, to understand the environment in all details in order to protect it," said Gay.

Piloted by Gay, the battery-powered ROV surveyed a range of depths from around 130 to 1,050 meters (427 to 3,445 feet) — exploring rocky habitats, taking samples, and observing deep-sea organisms.

ecosystems — but it's under threat from commercial fishing, high maritime traffic and pollution. In June, CNN joined One Ocean Foundation, an international nonprofit, on its first mission to deploy a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) more than 1,000 meters (3,281 feet) below the surface to explore the dense sea forest at the bottom of Caprera Canyon, as part of the Rolex Perpetual Planet Initiative.

As scientific project coordinator for One Ocean Foundation and researcher at the University of Insubria, Boldrocchi led this mission to observe an environment no human had seen before — a crucial step in advancing the foundation's study of the canyon's ecological importance.

# It's Quietly Building A Clean Energy Empire

## THIS OIL-RICH COUNTRY HAS STOOD IN THE WAY OF CLIMATE ACTION

A dark geometric sprawl breaks up an expanse of ochre-hued sand in Saudi Arabia. Close up, the structure is made up of row after row of solar panels, glimmering in the intense sun as it beats down on this scrubby, arid land about 60 miles south of the city of Jeddah.



Laura Paddison

There are big economic drivers for this. Burning oil domestically is inefficient and taking it out of the electricity mix frees it up to be sold on global markets, Alkattan said. "That's where the profit is."

Al Shuaibah 2 is Saudi Arabia's largest solar farm, with a capacity of more than 2 gigawatts, enough to power around 350,000 homes. But it won't keep its crown for long. Even larger installations are already in development as mega solar farms proliferate across the country's desert lands.

"There is a solar boom, no one can deny that," said Nishant Kumar, renewable and power analyst at the research firm Rystad Energy. Saudi Arabia has pledged to generate 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and the race is on to meet it.

At first glance, it may seem an unlikely reinvention; this is oil country after all. Saudi Arabia boasts the world's second-largest oil reserves, is the largest oil exporter and has consistently pushed back against global efforts to move away from fossil fuels. But what's happening here shows even the planet's ultimate petrostate is making a bet on

clean energy — just as the Trump administration seeks to strangle it.

The pace of Saudi Arabia's solar boom has been breathtaking. "No country is going faster," said Dave Jones, co-founder of the climate think tank Ember.

In 2020, the country had next to no renewables. By the end of this year, it's predicted to have 12 gigawatts of solar, Kumar told CNN. Saudi Arabia has added so much in 2025 that it's broken into the top 10 global markets for annual new solar for the first time, according to BloombergNEF data.

The boom shows no signs of slowing. ACWA Power, the country's utilities giant, which jointly owns the Al Shuaibah complex, announced in July — along with companies including state-owned oil and gas firm Saudi Aramco — an investment of \$8.3 billion into 15 gigawatts of renewables, dominated by solar.

By 2030 solar will be growing "at a very fast pace," Kumar said. Rystad projects more than 70 gigawatts will be installed by the end of the decade. "On top of that, they're installing onshore wind as well," he added. There are plans to power huge infrastructure developments with clean energy, including the \$500 billion futuristic city of NEOM and

a luxury Red Sea tourism project.

It's a striking move for a country built on oil. "Black gold" funded Saudi Arabia's transition from nomadic desert country to a significant global power in just decades. But experts say its solar surge makes sense for several reasons, one of the biggest being economics. Simply put: it's cheap.

"Solar is so cost competitive, it makes financial sense," said Karen Young, a senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University. This is especially true given the accelerating electricity demand in the kingdom, driven by cooling needs and water desalination.

Costs of solar have plummeted thanks to a flood of cheap Chinese-made solar panels into the market. The last two years have seen "just unprecedentedly low prices," Ember's Jones said. Battery costs have fallen, too, with average prices dropping by 40% in 2024 alone, according to Ember. Batteries make solar, which is otherwise only available when the sun shines, more flexible and even more attractive.

And solar suits Saudi Arabia: The sun reliably shines throughout most of the year, it has cheap and plentiful land, and grid connection is inexpensive, as there is space for huge solar farms near big cities, Jones said.

The country also benefits from economies of scale. "All of their installations are vast" allowing them to negotiate down equipment and construction costs, said Abdullah Alkattan, Middle East and North Africa energy transition analyst at BloombergNEF.



## PAUL SIGNAC: A LEADING LIGHT OF NEO-IMPRESSIONISM

**Diary Times Desk :** Early in 1890, Paul Signac came close to having a duel with the Symbolist painter Henry de Groux. The latter had made disparaging remarks about Vincent van Gogh, calling his work 'abominable' and refusing to show in a group exhibition with him. Signac was a friend of the Dutchman's, and ready to draw a sword on his behalf — only for those with cooler heads to intervene and ultimately keep the peace.

This anecdote reveals a number of things about Signac: not only that he was loyal to his friends, and had a shortish temper, but that he was part of a network of painters who transformed Western art in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Alongside Georges Seurat, he was the pioneer of a movement known as Neo-Impressionism (more on which below). His friend and fellow Neo-Impressionist Henri-Edmond Cross saw in Signac's pictures 'a play of hues as ravishing as happy combinations of gems'.

### Early works indebted to the Impressionists

Signac was born in Paris in 1863. His family ran a successful chain of saddler's shops and included Emperor Napoleon III among their clients. Young Paul's brief studies in architecture were abandoned after he saw a solo exhibition by Claude Monet. His heart was now set upon becoming a painter.

He was largely self-taught, with a fondness for working en plein air on the banks of the River Seine. His early art was indebted to the Impressionists, and Signac was ejected from the fourth Impressionist exhibition for sketching from a work by Degas. (It was Paul Gauguin, one of the exhibiting artists, who did the ejecting — with some physical force — making clear that 'one does not copy here, monsieur'.)

### The Société des Artistes Indépendants

In 1884, Signac helped form the Société des Artistes Indépendants, an association that launched an annual exhibition named the Salon des Indépendants. This was intended for artists dissatisfied with the conservative submission policy of the official Salon (which was government-sponsored).

Seurat was also part of the association, and in the years ahead he and Signac set about exploring fresh ways of painting. They came to conclude that a rational order should be imposed on the Impressionists' interpretations of colour and light.



## 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.



## SERGI DOMINGUEZ TALKS FLICK, BERNAL, INIGO, DE JONG, LAMINE, BARCELONA EXIT – ‘MY GOAL IS TO RETURN HOME’

**Diary Times Desk :** Sergi Dominguez was one of several young talents from La Masia who got their first-team breakthrough at FC Barcelona last season under Hansi Flick.

However, the young centre-back had to leave the club in the summer transfer window, joining Dinamo Zagreb, in search of regular first-team action – something that was not guaranteed for him at his boyhood club.

Just four months after arriving in the Croatian capital, Dominguez has established himself at the heart of Dinamo's defence, becoming undroppable for manager Mario Kovacevic.

Now, speaking to SPORT, Dominguez looked back on his breakthrough at Barcelona and subsequent move to Croatia, and shed light on his future objectives.

Kicking things off, the young defender revealed he sought advice from Dani Olmo, who left Barça for Dinamo more than a decade ago, before finalising the transfer.

## FORMER BARCELONA MIDFIELDER OPENS UP ON STRUGGLES AT HIS NEW CLUB – ‘TWO VERY DIFFERENT STYLES’

**Diary Times Desk :** Pablo Torre signed for Mallorca with the hope of relaunching his career, but the early months of his spell have been far more complicated than he expected.

The 22-year-old former Barcelona midfielder has found himself on the fringes of the team, struggling to secure a regular place in the starting lineup.

Instead of becoming a central figure, he has been a substitute in five of the last seven matches, accumulating only 618 minutes across 12 appearances.

While he has contributed two assists, his influence remains limited, and his adaptation to a completely different footballing environment is proving more demanding than anticipated.

Still adapting to the demands During an interview with Diario de Mallorca, cited by Mundo Deportivo, Torre spoke with unusual honesty about the process he is going through.

He acknowledged the drastic shift in footballing identity he has encountered since leaving Barcelona.

## BARCELONA SEND FORMAL REQUEST TO LA LIGA OVER CAMP NOU RETURN WITH COUNCIL DECISION IMMINENT

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona's long-anticipated return to the Spotify Camp Nou is edging closer, with the club formally requesting La Liga's approval to host their upcoming fixture against Athletic Club at the refurbished stadium.

According to SER, Barça have already submitted the necessary documents to the league, and now await the decisive green light from the Barcelona City Council.

The timeline is tight, and that is putting significant pressure on the club. Barcelona expect to receive the municipal licence today, a development that will determine whether the team can return home as early as this Saturday.

Without official confirmation soon, ticket sales for the Athletic Club match cannot begin, a delay that would automatically push the return date to at least 29 November, when Barça host Alaves.

Important day for Barcelona It is said that the process appears to be in its final stretch.

## BARCELONA TRIO SHOW UP TO TRAIN DESPITE OFFICIAL REST DAY

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona's preparations for the crucial clash against Athletic Club took an unexpected turn today.

As reported by Carlos Monfort of SPORT, the likes of Joan Garcia, Marc Bernal, and Marc Casado all turned up to train at the club facilities, despite the squad officially having a day off.

While such commitment is not unusual among players fighting for a place, the circumstances around each of their situations add a deeper layer to today's development.

Optimism with Joan Garcia Among the trio, the most encouraging update revolves around Joan Garcia.

The goalkeeper has been inching closer to returning from injury, and as reported before, he is now finally expected to be available for selection against Athletic Club this weekend.

Given Barcelona's urgent need to stabilise their defensive structure, especially as they continue their pursuit of Real Madrid at the top of the league table, Garcia's imminent return could arrive at the perfect moment.

## OFFICIAL: BARCELONA WILL RETURN TO SPOTIFY CAMP NOU FOR ATHLETIC CLUB CLASH

**Diary Times Desk :** It is official. After two and a half years away, FC Barcelona will finally make their return to the Spotify Camp Nou this weekend when they take on Athletic Club in La Liga.

Having moved to Estadi Olímpic Lluís Companys in 2023, the Blaugrana have had to wait for a long time for the redevelopment project at Camp Nou to reach the stage where they can move back to the venue.

There have been false dawns in the recent past – the Joan Gamper Trophy match, the La Liga game vs Valencia, having been set as dates for a move back, only for the plan to fall through.

Now, though, it is official. Barcelona will return to Camp Nou for Sunday's league game against Athletic Club, having received the green light from the City Council and La Liga.

"FC Barcelona informs that the match corresponding to matchday 13 of the League, against Athletic Club, scheduled for Saturday, November 22 at 16:15 hours, will finally be played at Spotify Camp Nou," the club statement read.

## SPAIN BOSS HAILS BARCELONA FORWARD AS ELITE AFTER SENSATIONAL SCORING RUN – ‘LUCKY TO HAVE HIM’

**Diary Times Desk :** Ferran Torres has been one of the standout performers for both Barcelona and the Spanish national team in recent weeks, and the recognition for his resurgence continues to grow.

The forward has quietly built an impressive run of form, finding the net in three of his last four matches for club and country.

His latest contribution came in Spain's crucial win over Georgia, where he not only scored but also provided an assist, further underlining the confidence with which he is currently playing.

In the history books His goal against Georgia carried far more weight than another mark on the scoresheet.

As such, he officially entered the top ten all-time scorers for the national team, which is a remarkable achievement for a player who is still only 25.

