

NEWS IN BRIEF

**MAJOR COLLISION
AVERTED AT DELHI
AIRPORT AS
AFGHAN AIRLINE
FLIGHT LANDS ON
WRONG RUNWAY****Diary Times Desk :**

A major collision was averted at the Indira Gandhi International Airport here on Sunday when an Ariana Afghan Airlines flight from Kabul mistakenly landed on a runway from where another flight was taking off, a senior DGCA official said.

The pilot-in-command (PIC) of the Ariana flight stated that he lost ILS (Instrument Landing System) at 4NM (nautical miles) and the aircraft turned right, after which the captain landed with visual approach on runway 29R, the official said.

The ILS is a precision radio navigation system that provides short-range guidance to an aircraft allowing it to approach a runway at night, during bad weather and poor visibility. As per the PIC, he lost ILS at 4NM and the aircraft turned right, after which the captain landed with visual approach on RWY 29R, the DGCA official said, adding the ATC confirmed.

**FROM IDEALISTIC
HERO, LOVER BOY
TO ACTION STAR:
HERE ARE
DHARMENDRA'S 10
MOST ICONIC FILMS****Diary Times Desk :**

With his effortless ability to shift through intense, understated performances and larger than life action heroes, Dharmendra was an all-rounder, who effortlessly embodied all kinds of roles in an era where biggest of the heroes found it difficult to break out of their prescribed image. Dharmendra's playful, emotional and heart on his sleeves Veeru was the perfect foil to Bachchan's Jai, who would lower his guards only around his friend. Veeru was the fighter and Jai his perfect wingman. The Ramesh Sippy-directed film is one of the best examples of romance in Hindi cinema.

Dharmendra's romance with Hema Malini and his drunk scenes are also iconic as is the dialogue 'Basanti! inn kutton ke saamne mat naachna'. Parimal disguises himself as Hindi loving Pyare Mohan and gets employed as a driver at Raghendra's place and this leads to all kinds of funny situations. It is one of Dharmendra's most endearing performances.

**RAM
MANDIR****PM MODI TO HOIST SAFFRON FLAG AT RAM MANDIR ON
TUESDAY**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday and hoist the traditional saffron flag on the temple.

Prime Minister will first visit Sapt Mandir which houses temples associated with Maharshi Vashishtha, Maharshi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Agastya, Maharshi Valmiki, Devi Ahilya, Nishadraj Guha and Mata Shabari. This will be followed by a visit to Sheshavtar Mandir.

The PM will then visit Mata Annapurna Mandir, after which he will perform darshan and puja at Ram Darbar Garbh Grah, which will be followed by darshan at Ram Lalla Garbha Grah.

At 12 noon, the Prime Minister will ceremonially hoist a saffron flag on the Shikhar of the sacred Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya, symbolising the completion of the temple's construction and signalling the government's commitment to "heritage and development."

The programme will coincide with Panchami of the Shukla Paksha in the month of Margashirsha, marking Lord Ram and Maa Sita's Vivah Panchami, a day symbolising divine union. This date also marks the martyrdom day of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, who meditated in Ayodhya for 48 uninterrupted hours in the 17th century, further enhancing the spiritual significance of the day.

The right-angled triangular flag, measuring ten feet in height and twenty feet in length, bears the image of a radiant Sun symbolising the brilliance and valour of Lord Ram, with an 'Om' inscribed on it along with an image of Kovidara tree.

The sacred saffron flag will convey a message of dignity, unity, and cultural continuity, embodying the ideals of Ram Rajya, a PMO statement said.

The flag will rise atop a temple summit constructed in the traditional North Indian Nagara architectural style, while the surrounding 800-metre Parkota, a circumambulatory enclosure built around the temple, designed in the South Indian architectural tradition, showcases the temple's architectural diversity.

The temple complex features 87 intricately carved stone episodes from the life of Lord Ram based on the Valmiki Ramayana on the outer walls of the main temple, and 79 bronze-cast episodes from Indian culture placed along the enclosure walls.

JUSTICE VIKRAM NATH NEW EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF NALSA

Diary Times Desk : Justice Vikram Nath, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, has been nominated as the next Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).

Constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, NALSA is mandated to provide free legal services to weaker sections of the society.

According to the NALSA Act, the CJI is the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA.

The President, in consultation with the CJI, appoints an active or retired Supreme Court judge as the Executive Chairman of NALSA.

The nomination was made by President Droupadi Murmu in exercise of powers conferred by the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Justice Nath, who has served on the Supreme Court Bench since 2021, will supervise NALSA's mission of guiding the nation's legal aid system and offering competent and free legal services to those in need of the same.

Another Supreme Court judge, Justice Maheshwari, has been nominated as Chairperson of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC) by CJI Surya Kant.

**FRENCH-ORIGIN HAMMER, USED DURING
OPERATION SINDOOR, TO BE MANUFACTURED
IN INDIA**

Diary Times Desk : A French-origin weapon called the 'HAMMER', used during Operation Sindoor by the Indian Air Force, will now be made in India.

Public sector undertaking Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and French-major Safran Electronics and Defence (SED) today signed a joint venture cooperation agreement (JVCA) for producing the HAMMER.

'HAMMER' is an abbreviation of 'Highly agile modular munition extended range'. It is a smart precision guided air-to-ground weapon in India.

The Ministry of Defence said HAMMER is a combat-proven, precision-guided weapon system known for its high accuracy and modular design, making it adaptable for multiple platforms, including the Rafale and Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.

It will localise the manufacturing, supply and maintenance of HAMMER to meet the operational needs of the IAF and the Indian Navy. The MoD said "the indigenisation level will progressively increase up to 60 per cent with key sub-assemblies, electronics and mechanical parts being manufactured locally".

**STUDY FINDS GENDER-SPECIFIC BRAIN
PATTERNS IN CHILDREN PREDISPOSED TO
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**

Diary Times Desk : A new study has found differing patterns in the brain activity of boys and girls with a family history of substance use disorder, reflecting distinct ways in which they may be predisposed to addiction long before substance use begins.

Findings published in the journal Nature Mental Health "may help explain why boys and girls often follow different paths toward substance use and addiction", said senior author Amy Kuceyeski, professor of mathematics and neuroscience in the department of radiology at Weill Cornell Medical College, US.

Researchers measured how the brain transitions between different patterns of activity during rest. Brain scans of nearly 1,900 children aged nine to eleven from the US 'Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development' study were analysed.

Girls with a family history of substance use disorders showed a higher transition energy in the brain's default-mode network — which is at play during idle thinking or daydreaming — suggesting that their brains might need to work harder to shift gears from thought processes that are directed inwards.

"That may mean (a) greater difficulty disengaging from negative internal states like stress or rumination.

Such inflexibility could set the stage for later risk, when substances are used as a way to escape or self-soothe," first author Louisa Schilling, doctoral candidate at Weill Cornell Medical College, said.

TAX EXEMPTION

**SC ISSUES NOTICE TO
CENTRE, EC, 12 POLITICAL
PARTIES OVER PIL
AGAINST TAX EXEMPTION
ON ANONYMOUS CASH
DONATIONS BELOW RS
2,000**

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Monday issued notices to the Centre, the Election Commission and 12 political parties on a PIL challenging the validity of an Income Tax Act provision that allowed political parties to receive "anonymous" cash donations below Rs 2,000.

"Thus, with the advent of UPI revolution in the country, permitting exemption of income received by way of contribution in cash below Rs 2,000 under Section 13A(d) of the Income Tax Act, 1961, can no more be justified and is manifestly arbitrary and has no nexus to the object of maintaining transparency in the funding of political parties," the PIL submitted.

A Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta asked the Centre, the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the EC, BJP, Congress and 10 other political parties to respond to the PIL and posted the matter for hearing after four weeks.

Filed by one Khem Singh Bhati, the PIL urged the top court to declare clause (d) of Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 unconstitutional and direct the poll panel to scrutinise Form 24A contribution reports of all recognised political parties at the national and state level and to require them to deposit the amount received by way of contributions for which address and/or PAN had not been furnished.

**CJI SURYA KANT SAYS NO TO
ORAL MENTIONING OF
CASES, HEARS 17 CASES ON
FIRST DAY**

Diary Times Desk : On the first day as the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, Monday set a new procedural norm that mentioning cases for urgent listing must be made in writing, and oral requests will be entertained under "extraordinary circumstances" like in cases of death penalty and personal liberty. A bench led by Justice Kant heard as many as 17 cases in proceedings spanning around two hours on his first day as the CJI.

Arriving at the Supreme Court for the first time as CJI in the forenoon, he paid floral tributes at the statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr B R Ambedkar on the court premises.

He then presided over a three-judge bench, also comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and Atul S Chandurkar, in the heritage courtroom number one.

As proceedings commenced around noon, the CJI pronounced a judgment on a plea filed by Himachal Pradesh against a private firm.



FROM SMALL-TOWN LAWYER TO PINNACLE OF JUDICIARY, 53RD CJI SURYA KANT DELIVERED MANY KEY VERDICTS



Diary Times Desk : Justice Surya Kant, who took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India on Monday, has been part of several key verdicts, including orders on Presidential Reference on removing timelines for governors, abrogation of Article 370, Bihar electoral roll revision, the Pegasus spyware case, free speech, and citizenship rights.

Coming from a middle-class family in Haryana's Hisar district, CJI Kant started his professional journey as a small-town lawyer before reaching the pinnacle of the Indian judiciary.

Delineating his top two priorities as the head of the judiciary, CJI Kant recently told the media that dealing with a huge backlog of more than five crore cases across courts and promoting "game changer" mediation as an alternative mode of dispute resolution will be his two important goals.

CJI Kant was recently part of a five-judge Constitution bench headed by his predecessor Justice BR Gavai.

ARMY CHIEF GENDWIVEDI TO LEAD FIRST-EVER OFFICIAL COMMEMORATION OF OPERATION PAWAN ON NOV 25

Diary Times Desk : Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi will tomorrow lead the armed forces in the first-ever official commemoration for soldiers who laid down their lives in 'Operation Pawan' in Sri Lanka.

The deployment of forces to Sri Lanka was called the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). The solemn ceremony tomorrow signifies the long-awaited recognition and closure for the 1,171 soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice of their lives and the 3,500 who were injured in the line of duty.

A 'wreath laying' ceremony will be held at National War Memorial, New Delhi, on November 25. General Dwivedi, will lay a wreath at the memorial, honouring the supreme sacrifice of Maj R Parameswaran and all fallen soldiers of Operation Pawan. Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh, Vice Chief of the Army, who had participated in Operation Pawan as a young officer, would be accompanying the Army Chief.

PNB LOAN FRAUD CASE: ED HANDS OVER FOUR ATTACHED FLATS OF MEHUL CHOKSI TO LIQUIDATORS

Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate on Monday said it has restored to the official liquidator four Mumbai flats attached by it as part of a money laundering investigation against absconding diamantaire Mehul Choksi.

The flats were handed over to the liquidator on November 21, enabling it to proceed with the monetisation of these assets for the benefit of victims, secured creditors and other legitimate claimants, the federal probe agency said in a statement.

Restitution of assets is a provision available under the PMLA and is aimed at restoring funds or properties to those victims, including banks, who were duped by individuals and companies through a loan or investment scheme fraud.

Till now, the ED said, immovable and movable properties located in Mumbai, Kolkata and Surat worth Rs 310 crore have been handed over to the liquidator of Gitanjali Gems Ltd., a company of Choksi.

Choksi is currently fighting his extradition to India from Belgium.

Choksi's nephew Nirav Modi, their family members and employees, bank officials and others were booked by the ED and the CBI in 2018 for perpetrating the alleged loan fraud at the Brady House branch of the Punjab National Bank (PNB) in Mumbai.



MUSKAN, ACCUSED IN INFAMOUS 'BLUE DRUM' MURDER CASE, GIVES BIRTH TO BABY GIRL

Diary Times Desk : Muskan, who is in the Meerut jail for the gruesome murder of her husband Saurabh Rajput and hiding his body in a blue drum, gave birth to a baby girl at the local medical college hospital on Monday evening, jail officials said.

Senior Jail Superintendent Dr Viresh Raj Sharma said that Muskan was brought to Lala Lajpat Rai Memorial Medical College here around 11.30 pm on Sunday after her labour pain increased.

Sharma said Muskan's family members have been informed. However, no one from the family visited Muskan at the hospital.

According to the hospital administration, Muskan's condition remained normal throughout the day and she was continuously monitored. Given the sensitivity of the matter, police deployment has been increased around the main entrance and wards of the hospital.

EX-CJI GAVAI LEAVES OFFICIAL CAR FOR SUCCESSOR SURYA KANT AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Diary Times Desk : Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) B R Gavai on Monday set a new precedent by leaving the official Mercedes-Benz car for his successor, Surya Kant, at Rashtrapati Bhavan after the latter's swearing-in ceremony.

Justice Gavai, who superannuated on November 23, reached the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the official car and left for his residence in his personal vehicle after the function.

"After the oath ceremony, Justice Gavai left the official vehicle designated for the chief justice and returned in an alternative vehicle from Rashtrapati Bhavan, ensuring that the official car is available for use by his successor," a person privy to the development said.

Justice Surya Kant was administered the oath as the 53rd CJI by President Droupadi Murmu at a brief ceremony on Monday morning. He took the oath in Hindi in the name of God.

COAST GUARD OFFICERS TO RETIRE AT 60: DELHI HC QUASHES DISCRIMINATORY RULES

Diary Times Desk : The Delhi High Court has struck down rules of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) setting different retirement ages for different ranks, wherein officers of the rank of Commandant and below retired at the age of 57 years, while senior ranks served till the age of 60. This implies that officers of all ranks and enlisted men in ICG would superannuate at the age of 60.

Allowing a bunch of petitions, a division bench of Justice C Hari Shankar and Justice Om Prakash Shukla held Rule 20(1) and 20(2)1 of the Coast Guard (General) Rules, 1986 were unconstitutional and unsupported by rational justification. Rule 20(1) concerns officers while Rule 20(2)1 concerns enlisted men below officer rank.

"We hold that the impugned Rule 20(1) and 20(2) of the 1986 Rules cannot sustain scrutiny of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India, to the extent they fix the age of superannuation of officers of the rank of Commandant and below, and enrolled persons, at 57. They are, therefore, quashed and set aside," the bench said in their order of November 24. "We hold, therefore, that the age of superannuation of 60 would apply to officers of the Coast Guard at all ranks," the bench added.

BLOS HOLD PROTEST
OUTSIDE BENGAL CEO’S
OFFICE OVER ‘EXCESSIVE’
WORK PRESSURE

Diary Times Desk : Surrounded by family members, WinBooth-level officers (BLOs) engaged in the ongoing SIR process in West Bengal had altercations with police personnel on Monday while attempting to enter the Chief Electoral Officer’s (CEO) office here during a demonstration against alleged excessive work pressure, a senior officer said.

Members of BLO Adhikar Raksha Committee marched from College Square in north Kolkata, carrying locks and fetters to symbolically close the main entrance of the building housing the CEO’s office. High drama unfolded as a 10-member delegation – comprising four BLOs and six teachers or state government employees – entered the office of CEO Manoj Agarwal in the evening to submit their grievances. With the CEO absent, his deputy met them and accepted their memorandum.

ED FREEZES DEPOSITS
WORTH RS 523 CRORE IN
PROBE AGAINST ONLINE
GAMING PLATFORMS
WINZO, GAMESKRAFT

Diary Times Desk : The ED on Monday said it has frozen collective deposits worth about Rs 523 crore of online gaming companies WinZO and Gameskraft as the platforms allegedly “held” funds worth crores of rupees that should ideally have been refunded to players after India banned real-money gaming recently.

The federal probe agency conducted multiple searches between November 18 and 22 in Delhi, Bengaluru and Gurugram as part of a money laundering investigation against these platforms’ parent companies—Nirdesa Networks Pvt. Ltd. (NNPL), Gameskraft Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (GTPL) and WinZO Games Pvt. Ltd—and their promoters. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) accused WinZO of “engaging in criminal activities and unscrupulous practices as customers were made to play with algorithms without being made aware of the fact that they are playing with the software and not with humans in real-money games”. A WinZO spokesperson said in a statement that the company was “cooperating fully with the investigating agency and will continue to support the process”. WinZO, the ED said in a statement, was operating real-money games (RMGs) in countries such as Brazil, the US and Germany etc., from India (on the same platform used by the Indian entity).

ETHIOPIA VOLCANO ASH PLUMES: SEVERAL
FLIGHTS CANCELLED; DGCA ISSUES
ADVISORY TO AIRLINES, AIRPORTS



Diary Times Desk : Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to airlines and airports to deal with possible disruptions due to the ash plume from the volcanic activity in Ethiopia. Ash clouds from the recent eruption of the HayliGubbi volcano in Ethiopia are impacting flight operations, and there are reports suggesting that clouds might also be drifting towards the western parts of India.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) confirmed that Toulouse and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) had issued a Volcanic Ash Advisory and an ASHTAM, prompting immediate precautionary measures for flights operating in the region.

CHAMPIONS AGAIN: INDIA WOMEN’S
KABADDI TEAM SECURE SECOND
CONSECUTIVE WORLD CUP TITLE IN
DHAKA

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the many who lauded the women’s team for the remarkable achievement.

“Congratulations to our Indian Women’s Kabaddi Team for making the nation proud by winning the Kabaddi World Cup 2025! They have showcased outstanding grit, skills and dedication.

Their victory will inspire countless youngsters to pursue Kabaddi, dream bigger and aim higher,” the Prime Minister wrote on X.

Unbeaten India were in sublime form throughout the tournament. They had beaten Iran 33-21 to enter the summit clash. Chinese Taipei, on the other hand, beat hosts Bangladesh 25-18 in the semifinals.

JUSTICE SURYA KANT TAKES OATH AS 53RD CHIEF JUSTICE OF
INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Justice Surya Kant, the senior-most judge of the Supreme Court, was on Monday sworn in as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI). President Draupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Kant in Hindi at a brief ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan here at 10 am. He succeeds Justice BR Gavai, who retired on November 23 after a tenure of a little over six months. Justice Gavai had on October 27 recommended Justice Kant’s name as his successor. The President on October 30 had appointed Justice Kant as the next CJI. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Vice-President CP Radhakrishnan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, several Union ministers, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.



‘CALLED MY INDIAN
PASSPORT INVALID’:
ARUNACHAL WOMAN
ALLEGES HARASSMENT AT
CHINESE AIRPORT

Diary Times Desk : A woman from Arunachal Pradesh, who lives in the UK, alleged that immigration officials at China’s Shanghai airport detained her for nearly 18 hours after refusing to recognise her Indian passport during a transit halt, raising concerns over Beijing’s repeated attempts to challenge India’s territorial sovereignty. Pema Wangjom Thongdok, who was travelling from London to Japan on November 21, claimed her three-hour scheduled layover turned into a traumatising ordeal after immigration personnel declared her passport “invalid” solely because it listed Arunachal Pradesh as her birthplace.

Pema, whose family hails from Rupa in West Kameng district, claimed that Chinese officials insisted Arunachal Pradesh was “part of China” and demanded she accept their interpretation before allowing further processing.

INDIAN NAVY COMMISSIONS
INDIGENOUS ANTI-SUBMARINE
WARFARE VESSEL INS MAHE

Diary Times Desk : The Indian Navy on Monday commissioned INS Mahe, the first of the Mahe-class anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft, which is expected to boost its combat prowess. Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi was the chief guest here at the commissioning ceremony of INS Mahe, marking the new generation of indigenous shallow-water combatants - sleek, swift and resolutely Indian. Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), INS Mahe represents the cutting edge of India’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) initiative in naval ship design and construction. Compact yet powerful, the ship embodies agility, precision and endurance - qualities vital for dominating the littorals, the Navy said. With her blend of firepower, stealth and mobility, the ship is designed to hunt submarines, conduct coastal patrols, and secure India’s vital maritime approaches, it added.

UN REFORMS NOT OPTIONAL: PM MODI AT IBSA MEET

Diary Times Desk :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said global institutions had drifted far from 21st-century realities and must undergo urgent reforms. He warned that the absence of India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) as permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) "is a proof of the system's deep mismatch with today's world".

"IBSA must send a united message to the world that institutional reform is no longer optional, it is a necessity," the Prime Minister said at the IBSA leaders' meeting in Johannesburg, held on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

He recalled that India, during its 2021 IBSA chairship, hosted the first meeting of the three countries' national security advisers and proposed giving the mechanism a formal, institutional structure to deepen security cooperation.

Participating in the trilateral meeting with President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, Modi said IBSA was not merely a grouping but a bridge linking three continents and three major democratic economies bound by shared values and aspirations.

'SAME SAME, BUT DIFFERENT!': DID DONALD TRUMP 'BORROW' MAMDANI'S OUTFIT? SOCIAL MEDIA REACTS

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump's latest winter look has sparked a hilarious debate on social media—not for its fashion-forward vibes, but for its uncanny resemblance to New York City's newly elected Mayor, Zohran Mamdani. The US President, known for bombastic statements, not tailored suits, was spotted in a maroon high-neck sweater paired with a black overcoat. Sound familiar? X users immediately compared it to Mamdani's signature style—same colours, but with a black blazer instead.

"It's called 'the Mamdani'. Trump dressed up for his crush. He's all excited again," an X user joked. One user shared Mamdani's picture and wrote, "No way, he's copying the look." Nico Winther commented, "They both look good, and I'm stealing this look too."

Another user shared a picture from the iconic sitcom, The Office, and wrote, "Same vibe". A fourth user pointed out that former US President Barack Obama had a better style.

ETHIOPIA VOLCANO ASH PLUMES: SEVERAL FLIGHTS CANCELLED; DGCA ISSUES ADVISORY TO AIRLINES, AIRPORTS

Diary Times Desk : Aviation regulator DGCA on Monday issued an advisory to airlines and airports to deal with possible disruptions due to the ash plume from the volcanic activity in Ethiopia.

Ash clouds from the recent eruption of the HayliGubbi volcano in Ethiopia are impacting flight operations, and there are reports suggesting that clouds might also be drifting towards the western parts of India.

The DGCA said the advisory, circulated to all carriers earlier in the day, must be treated as an immediate safety directive. "This is to inform all Indian Aviation Operators of the recent volcanic ash activity affecting the Muscat FIR and surrounding regions... Attached herewith is a copy of the Volcanic Ash Advisory for your immediate reference and necessary action," read the email, accessed by The Tribune, sent to all Indian Airlines.

WANT RS 38,000? JUST 'LIE DOWN FLAT' FOR 33 HOURS STRAIGHT!

Diary Times Desk : In a viral feat of ultimate relaxation, a 23-year-old Chinese man has crowned himself the winner of a bizarre 'lying-flat competition'—proving that doing absolutely nothing can be a skill. The event, held at a shopping centre in Baotou, Inner Mongolia, (as reported by the Xiaoxiang Morning Herald) attracted 240 participants ready to test their limits (and bladder control).

The Rules: No sitting, no standing, no bathroom breaks. Diapers were encouraged. The participants were allowed to turn over, use their smartphones, read books and even order delivery.

The champ, motivated by his girlfriend's nudge, endured 33 hours and 35 minutes without a single stretch. "I wanted to quit, but she told me to push," he said. He ultimately won prize money of 3,000 yuan (Rs 38,000).



DRIVER ARRESTED IN TOKYO AFTER CAR HITS ABOUT 10 PEOPLE: LOCAL MEDIA

Diary Times Desk : A car struck about 10 people in Tokyo on Monday, seriously injuring two of them, and the driver was arrested after fleeing the scene, Japanese media reported. Police did not immediately comment on the incident, but they said a representative would provide an update as soon as possible.

The Mainichi newspaper reported that police had arrested the driver, who fled the scene, adding the driver is under investigation for a suspected hit and run.

CANADA TO AMEND CITIZENSHIP LAW; LIKELY TO BENEFIT INDIAN-ORIGIN FAMILIES



Diary Times Desk :Canada has moved closer toward modernising citizenship-by-descent law, after a bill to amend the act received royal assent, in a move that is likely to affect thousands of Indian-origin families. Bill C-3, an Act to amend the Citizenship Act (2025), has received royal assent. This represents an important milestone in making the Citizenship Act more inclusive, while maintaining the value of Canadian citizenship, said a news release issued by the Canadian government on Friday.

The new law will also allow a Canadian parent born or adopted abroad to pass citizenship on to their child born or adopted outside Canada on or after the date the bill comes into force, provided they have a substantial connection to Canada, the release said.

"Bill C-3 will fix long-standing issues in our citizenship laws and bring fairness to families with children born or adopted abroad. It will provide citizenship to people who were excluded by previous laws, and it will set clear rules for the future that reflect how modern families live. These changes will strengthen and protect Canadian citizenship," Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Lena Metlege Diab said.

On December 19, 2023, the Ontario Superior Court of Justice declared that key parts of the Citizenship Act relating to the first-generation limit to citizenship by descent were unconstitutional.

3 KILLED AS GUNMEN ATTACK PAKISTAN PARAMILITARY FORCE HEADQUARTERS IN PESHAWAR

Diary Times Desk : Gunmen attacked a paramilitary force headquarters in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday, police said.

The complex, the headquarters of the frontier constabulary paramilitary force, was also hit by two suicide bombers, sources told Reuters, adding that three people had been killed.

"The first suicide bomber carried out an attack on the main entrance of the constabulary and the other one entered the compound," a senior official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"Law enforcement personnel, including the army and police, have cordoned off the area and are carefully handling the situation as we suspect there are some terrorists inside the headquarters," the official added.

"The road has been closed for traffic and cordoned off by the army, police and (security) personnel," Safdar Khan, a resident of the area, told Reuters.



DOES JD VANCE HAVE A PALANTIR PROBLEM?



Diary Times Desk : In a recent conversation, Vice President JD Vance asked Roger Stone, President Donald Trump’s longtime confidant, for his biggest concern facing the country. Stone later recalled on his radio show that his answer was a technology company Vance now hears about with increasing frequency: Palantir.

For years, Democrats have zeroed in on Vance’s relationship with Palantir’s co-founder Peter Thiel, the iconoclastic tech titan who gave Vance one of his first jobs and later put \$15 million behind his successful 2022 Ohio Senate bid.

But the pressure on Vance is now coming from inside Trump’s coalition. As the administration steers billions of dollars of new work to Palantir, prominent voices have expressed fears that the firm’s powerful data analytics tools could give the government sweeping, almost futuristic surveillance capabilities.

The rising unease has put Vance on the defensive. At an October gathering of young conservatives at the University of Mississippi, he bristled at “this internet meme out there that somehow I am super in bed with Palantir” when the company’s name surfaced.

MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE’S EXIT SHOWS TRUMP STILL RULES THE GOP, BUT IT’S A WARNING HE SHOULDN’T IGNORE

Diary Times Desk : Marjorie Taylor Greene’s shock announcement of her exit from the House of Representatives after a feud with Donald Trump shows the president still has power to punish challenges to his authority in the Republican Party.

But if his quest for total loyalty means Trump ignores the substance behind the complaints of the Georgia representative who was once one of his fiercest supporters, then he will lead his party down a risky road. Greene on Sunday pushed back against reports that her departure from Congress in January.

PEPPER SPRAY HORROR: INDIAN FAMILY ATTACKED DURING RIVERBOAT RIDE

Diary Times Desk : A riverboat tour, supposed to be a joyous ride, left an Indian family with a bitter experience as they fell victims to a sudden pepper spray attack on San Antonio’s popular River Walk over the weekend.

On November 15, the Indian family of eight members, including a toddler, were seen rubbing their eyes, as a woman was shouting profanities at the passengers minutes before unleashing the attack. Videos of the attack were viral on TikTok and Instagram and netizens said it was absolutely shocking to see the woman attacking a bunch of people for no reason.

INDIAN VISITING GRANDCHILD IN CANADA HARASSES SCHOOL GIRLS, TO BE DEPORTED

Diary Times Desk : A 51-year-old Indian man, who was visiting Canada on a six-month visitor visa, was convicted of criminally harassing two teenage girls outside their school. Jagjit Singh, who arrived in Ontario, Canada, in July to meet his newborn grandchild, will be deported and banned from coming back to the country.

Police said soon after his arrival, Singh started frequenting the smoking area outside a local high school in the Sarnia area, where he allegedly sexually assaulted and harassed young Canadian girls.

He repeatedly approached young girls at the smoking area between September 8 and September 11, attempting to take photos with them, and spoke to them about drugs and alcohol, Canadian media reports said.

According to a report by The Winnipeg Sun, one of the complainants told police that she initially refused a photo but relented in hopes that Singh would leave if she complied.



I WATCHED HELPLESSLY AS GUNMEN SNATCHED MY SON, SAYS FATHER AFTER NIGERIAN SCHOOL KIDNAPPING

Diary Times Desk : A father has told the BBC he felt powerless as he witnessed gunmen on motorbikes abduct dozens of children, including his son, after storming a Catholic boarding school in northern Nigeria in the early hours of Friday.

The father said he was asleep when he was awoken by the noise of the gunmen as they went past his home with the children they had seized from St Mary’s school in Papiri village in Niger state.

“They [the children] were being trafficked on foot the way shepherds control their herds. Some children were falling and the men would kick them and instruct them to stand up.

“The gunmen were on about 50 motorcycle bikes while controlling them,” said the father, whose name we have changed to Theo for his safety.

Speaking to the BBC in the dormitory where his son used to sleep, Theo said he was in no position to stop the abduction.

“I felt like going [to help] but I thought better of it. Even if I did go, what could I do? I couldn’t do anything,” he told the BBC, adding that he called the police but it was too late by the time they arrived.

“SON OF A BI**H”: HOW MUSHARRAF HAD REACTED TO PAK SCIENTIST

“LEAKING” NUKE SECRETS

Diary Times Desk : A former American spy, who led the United States’ covert operation that “penetrated and sabotaged” a Pakistani nuclear trafficking network, revealed Pakistan’s then-president, Pervez Musharraf, was furious when confronted with evidence that physicist Abdul Qadeer Khan was selling the country’s nuclear secrets abroad. According to former CIA operations chief James Lawler, confronting Musharraf proved to be a decisive moment in dismantling one of the world’s most dangerous proliferation networks, with Islamabad placing Khan under years-long house arrest.

Speaking to news agency ANI, Lawler, who once headed the CIA’s Counter-Proliferation Division, said that it was the CIA director George Tenet who personally briefed Musharraf with “absolutely incontrovertible evidence” that Khan was leaking sensitive Pakistani nuclear technology to countries such as Libya.

“So Director George Tenet met with President Musharraf and told him that Dr Khan was betraying Pakistan’s nuclear secrets to at least the Libyans and maybe others. And Musharraf’s initial comment was, I’m going to kill that son of a bitch...,” the former spy said.

JUST 110 KM FROM TAIWAN, CHINA LAMBASTS JAPAN’S MISSILE PLANS ON YONAGUNI ISLAND; EXPERT WARNS OF TINDERBOX RISK

Diary Times Desk : China issued a sharp rebuke on Monday against Japan’s advancing plans to deploy missiles on Yonaguni Island, a remote outpost just 110 kilometers (68 miles) east of Taiwan.

The dispute, already simmering for weeks, erupted anew after Japanese media reported that Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, during his first visit to the Yonaguni base, affirmed the deployment of Type 03 medium-range surface-to-air missiles was proceeding “steadily” as part of Tokyo’s broader fortification of its southwestern islands.

These weapons, designed to counter incoming aircraft and air-to-ground threats, underscore Japan’s deepening concerns over China’s military expansion in the East China Sea and potential contingencies around Taiwan.

“The deployment can reduce the possibility of an armed attack on Japan,” Koizumi said, dismissing criticisms that the move would inflame regional instability.

Yonaguni, Japan’s westernmost inhabited island and a popular scuba-diving spot, has hosted a Ground Self-Defense Force camp since 2016, despite early local protests.

The base already features surveillance radars and electronic warfare units, positioning it as a frontline sentinel in any Taiwan Strait crisis.

INSIDE THE ROOM: WHAT HAPPENED DURING TRUMP AND MAMDANI’S MEETING

Diary Times Desk : They talked real estate, debated complicated zoning code, and mulled over how to get a utility giant to bring down electricity rates. Then, they talked about what it takes to build housing in America’s largest city and how the health of the five boroughs hinges on the streets being safe. Those were some of the topics New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani and President Donald Trump covered during a nearly hourlong meeting at the White House last week. Mamdani, who arrived in Washington, DC, for sit-down Friday, made his way through the West Wing of the White House alongside three top aides, senior adviser Morris Katz, press secretary Dora Pekec and his chief of staff, Elle Bisgaard-Church, according to a person familiar with the meeting. When it was finally time to enter the Oval, only Bisgaard-Church was invited. Inside was Trump and his own chief of staff, Susie Wiles.

DEATH TOLL CLIMBS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AS HEAVY RAINS CAUSE FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

Diary Times Desk : The death toll in widespread flooding and landslides caused by heavy rains in Southeast Asia mounted on Monday with another person reported killed in Vietnam, and five others in Thailand with tens of thousands of people displaced. The total number of confirmed dead in Vietnam is now 91, with 11 others missing as the heavy rain that began a week ago has caused severe flooding and triggered landslides from Quang Tri to Lam Dong provinces, a stretch of 800 kilometers (500 miles) along the country’s central region, including the highlands. In Dak Lak, the worst hit province, 63 people were killed, mostly due to drowning. Other fatalities were from Khanh Hoa, Lam Dong, Gia Lai, Danang, Hue and Quang Tri provinces. With roads washed out in many areas, helicopters have been deployed to drop food.

ISRAEL FIRES MILITARY COMMANDERS OVER OCTOBER 7 FAILURES

Diary Times Desk : The Israeli military has dismissed several senior officers and censured others over the failure to prevent the Hamas-led attack in October 2023. The list of generals formally fired on Monday included those in charge of military intelligence, operations, and the southern command, which is responsible for Gaza. The move comes despite the government having yet to launch an investigation into the attack, which launched the devastating war in the enclave. The military had announced in a statement on Sunday that a number of officers were to be released from reserve duty and would no longer serve in the military. “The IDF [Israeli army] failed in its primary mission on October 7th – to protect the civilians of the State of Israel,” military chief of staff Eyal Zamir said. “This is a severe, resounding, systemic failure,” he continued. “The lessons of that day are numerous and significant, and they must serve as our compass for the future.” Those informed that they would be released from reserve duty included the former heads of the intelligence directorate, operations directorate, and southern command. They had previously resigned from active service but remained on reserve duty. The current intelligence directorate chief, who on October 7, 2023 served as chief of the operations division.



DEEPEST DISCOUNT IN TWO YEARS: RUSSIA OFFERS CHEAPER URALS CRUDE TO INDIAN REFINERS

Diary Times Desk : Russian Urals crude is being offered to Indian refiners at the steepest discount in at least two years, Bloomberg reported on Monday. The shift comes as major Indian buyers, including Reliance Industries, have scaled back or halted Russian oil imports to comply with tightening Western restrictions. The US sanctions on top Russian producers Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC have disrupted the oil trade that had boomed since 2022. According to the report, Urals cargoes for December loading and January arrival are being offered at discounts of up to \$7 a barrel to Dated Brent on a delivered basis – more than double the previous discount of around \$3 per barrel before sanctions took effect last week. Only about a fifth of the available cargoes are being marketed by non-sanctioned sellers, limiting options for Indian refiners that want to avoid sanctions exposure.

X’S NEW LOCATION TRANSPARENCY FEATURE UNLEASHES QUESTIONS ABOUT ORIGINS OF MAGA ACCOUNTS

Diary Times Desk : A new feature on X has stirred confusion, anger and a wave of online sleuthing after users discovered that the platform was suddenly displaying the surprising locations where certain accounts are based. Over the weekend, users noticed that clicking on an account’s join date now opens a tab that shows the country or region in which the account is located.

X’s head of product, Nikita Bier, teased the feature last month as a way to help users verify the authenticity of content they read and limit the influence of troll farms, which often run political accounts from outside the countries they target. The issue of inauthentic or “bot” accounts has plagued the platform, formerly Twitter, and other social media sites for over a decade. Perhaps most notably, inauthentic accounts on Twitter and other social media platforms were allegedly used by a Russian government operation in the run-up to the 2016 election in an attempt to influence the outcome. The incident set off a wave of concern online about the persistent presence of inauthentic accounts, but detection methods to sniff out such accounts remained unreliable for years.

'NO ONE WILL SUPPORT IT': UKRAINE'S SOLDIERS REACT TO US PEACE PLAN



Diary Times Desk : Ukraine's frontline soldiers have reacted to draft US peace proposals with a mixture of defiance, anger and resignation.

The BBC spoke to half a dozen who sent us their views via social media and email in response to the original US plan – details of which were leaked last week.

Since then, American and Ukrainian negotiators have been working on changes to the proposals – and are set to continue talks about the "peace framework".

Of the original US plan, Yaroslav, in eastern Ukraine, says it "sucks... no one will support it" while an army medic with the call sign Shtutser dismissed it as an "absolutely disgraceful draft of a peace plan, unworthy of our attention".

But one soldier with the call sign Snake told us "it's time to agree at least on something".

AUSTRALIA SENATOR
CONDEMNED FOR BURKA
STUNT IN PARLIAMENT

Diary Times Desk : An Australian senator has provoked anger for wearing a burka in parliament, after pushing for a ban on the Muslim garment.

Pauline Hanson was condemned by fellow senators, with one accusing her of "blatant racism". Proceedings in the senate were halted as she refused to remove the item.

The Queensland senator, of the anti-immigration One Nation party, was seeking to introduce a bill that would ban full face coverings in public – a policy she has long campaigned for.

It is the second time she has worn the garment – which covers the face and body – in parliament, and said her actions were in protest at the senate rejecting her bill.

SEVERAL FLIGHTS CANCELLED AS
ETHIOPIAN VOLCANIC ASH DRIFTS
TOWARDS INDIA

Diary Times Desk : Several flights were cancelled, and Indian airlines and airports were issued an advisory to deal with possible disruptions due to the ash plume from the volcanic activity in Ethiopia. The ash cloud is moving eastward and is forecast to reach northern India by late Monday evening.

The Hayli Gubbi volcano erupted on Sunday for the first time in nearly 12,000 years, sending thick ash plumes across the Red Sea toward Yemen and Oman. The cloud has now stretched over the northern Arabian Sea.

The plumes are already reaching some parts of Rajasthan and Haryana, and the ash cloud's dense, concentrated parts are likely to move over Delhi in a few hours, according to a weather forecast. The plumes could also further plummet the air quality in Delhi, its neighbouring areas and Uttar Pradesh. However, there are low chances of any ash fall as the plumes are several thousand feet high in the atmosphere.

EXPLAINED: THE TAX TRIGGER BEHIND
STEEL TYCOON LAKSHMI MITTAL'S UK
EXIT

Diary Times Desk : Indian-origin billionaire Lakshmi Mittal, long based in the United Kingdom, is reportedly leaving the country as the Labour government plans major tax reforms targeting high-net-worth individuals. Mittal, currently a tax resident in Switzerland, will now spend most of his time in Dubai, according to The Times.

Why Is Lakshmi Mittal Leaving The UK?
The decision appears linked to the UK's abolition of the long-standing "non-domiciled" (non-dom) tax status. There have been no official statements yet. Previously, this status allowed wealthy residents to pay taxes only on income earned in the UK, protecting global assets from inheritance tax.

With the so-called "super-rich tax" expected to be passed in the next budget on November 26.

XI AND TRUMP HOLD PHONE TALKS ON TAIWAN, UKRAINE AND FUTURE OF
US-CHINA TIES

Diary Times Desk : China's President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump held a phone conversation on Monday, according to China's Xinhua news agency, a call that was later confirmed by a White House official.

The discussion touched on Taiwan, the Ukraine conflict and the future direction of ties between the two countries.

Xi told Trump that "both sides should expand list of cooperation," adding that the bilateral relationship has "maintained positive momentum."

He said China and the US "should strive for more progress in bilateral ties" and "should open new space for cooperation."

On Taiwan, Xi "clarified China's position on Taiwan issue" and told Trump that the "return of Taiwan to China [is] an important part of post-war international order."

He also said the two countries "should jointly safeguard victorious outcomes of World War II."

The two leaders also spoke about the conflict in Ukraine. According to Xinhua, Xi "urges all parties to reduce differences." The report noted that "China's Xi, Trump talked about Ukraine crisis."



TORONTO POLICE ARREST
INDIAN-ORIGIN MAN ON
CANADA'S MOST WANTED
LIST

Diary Times Desk : Toronto police have arrested an Indian-origin man on "Canada's 25 most wanted list" with firearms and ammunition, police said.

Nicholas Singh, 24, wanted on a Canada-wide warrant for Breach of Parole, was arrested on Friday, a statement issued by the Toronto Police said. Singh was arrested with a firearm, an extended magazine, and ammunition, it added.

The police say that officials were attending the Bathurst Street and Dupont Street area when they located Singh in a vehicle.

He was arrested without any incident, it added. Singh was serving a five-year, five-month and 10-day sentence for discharging a restricted/prohibited firearm with intent, armed robbery and possessing a weapon contrary to a prohibition order when he breached his parole," City News reported.



AN UNUSUAL TREND IN THE ECONOMY IS WORRYING THE FED

Diary Times Desk : Something in the US economy isn't adding up, and it's rattling the people charged with wrangling inflation and keeping the labor market intact.

US companies have sharply slowed their hiring this year, hesitant to invest without knowing the full effects of President Donald Trump's sweeping economic policies. The economy lost jobs in June and August, and the average pace of job gains for the three months ending in September was only around 62,000, according to the Labor Department.

Yet workers' productivity, a key driver of economic output, remains high. And gross domestic product, which captures all the goods and services produced in the economy, has stayed robust.

That dichotomy of an expanding economy and a softening labor market presents a conundrum for policymakers at the Federal Reserve, complicating their efforts to determine whether the economy needs cooling or boosting.

DAILY MAIL OWNER STRIKES \$650 MILLION DEAL TO BUY THE TELEGRAPH

Diary Times Desk : Daily Mail owner DMGT said on Saturday it had struck a 500 million pound (\$650 million) deal to buy rival newspaper The Telegraph in a tie-up that would create one of the most powerful right-leaning media groups in Britain.

The deal comes a week after US-based private investment firm RedBird Capital Partners withdrew its bid for The Telegraph, one of Britain's biggest newspapers.

A RedBird-IMI joint venture had acquired the Telegraph Media Group and The Spectator magazine in 2023, only for the then-government to intervene and ban foreign state investment in UK newspapers. RedBird then sought to formally request approval from the government to proceed with the acquisition under a revised structure, with Abu Dhabi-backed IMI participating as a minority investor capped at 15%.

WALL STREET BANKS SCRAMBLE TO ASSESS FALLOUT FROM HACK OF REAL-ESTATE DATA FIRM

Diary Times Desk : Hackers stole a trove of data from a company used by major Wall Street banks for real-estate loans and mortgages, setting off a scramble to determine what was taken and which banks were affected, according to people familiar with the investigation and a statement from the firm.

New York-based SitusAMC, which boasts 1,500 clients, said Saturday night that account records and legal agreements related to some of its clients had been impacted in the hack.

"The incident is now contained and our services are fully operational," SitusAMC said. "No encrypting malware was involved."

The firm discovered the unauthorized access to its systems on November 12 and within a few days was warning customers that they could be affected.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the hack. The FBI is investigating the incident.

'WICKED: FOR GOOD' RECAPTURES BOX OFFICE MAGIC WITH \$150 MILLION OPENING WEEKEND

Diary Times Desk : There was no place like the movie theater for fans of "Wicked" this weekend.

Universal's "Wicked: For Good" soared to No. 1 at the weekend box office, earning \$150 million domestically and \$226 million worldwide — far outpacing its predecessor, "Wicked," which opened to \$114 million domestically during last year's pre-Thanksgiving weekend.

"It's never a guarantee that a second installment will outperform an original, especially on the opening weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, head of marketplace trends at Comscore. "The first film, and now this movie ... created a cultural phenomenon. This was not an overnight success."

The musical fantasy film, which is a retelling inspired by the 1900 children's novel "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz," became the second-highest domestic opener of the year, behind Warner Bros.

Pictures' live-action "A Minecraft Movie" (\$162.75 million) and ahead of Disney's "Lilo & Stitch" (\$146 million). Warner Bros. Discovery is the parent company of CNN.

THE GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN MAY HAVE MADE IT TOUGHER TO FIX THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER SHORTAGE

Diary Times Desk : America hasn't had enough air traffic controllers for more than a decade — and the recent government shutdown might have made it even worse.

The stress of not being paid for those 44 days, on top of already harsh working conditions, spurred many to leave the workforce, according to Nick Daniels, president of the National Air Traffic Controllers Association, the union representing controllers.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said it also prompted many to retire early. Replacing them could take years — and the shutdown underscored the stakes when the country lacks controllers: canceled flights, delays and an even more miserable travel experience overall. Daniels wouldn't estimate the number of controllers lost, referring CNN to the FAA. The FAA did not respond to CNN's inquiry about the issue.



MORE AMERICANS ARE
TAKING OUT RISKIER
ADJUSTABLE-RATE
HOME LOANS

Diary Times Desk :
Nakul Mishra is already thinking about refinancing – even before he closes on his first home.

The 34-year-old had spent two years searching for the right home in Sacramento to settle into with his family. He finally found one he could afford, but not without some risk.

This month, Mishra opted to take out a seven-year adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM), betting he'll score a lower rate before the fixed period expires. It's a calculation more buyers are making lately as ARMs – the mortgage products that helped fuel housing market risk in the lead-up to the 2008 financial crisis – regain popularity.

WEIGHING WHETHER TO
DIVORCE IN 2026?
TAKING THESE STEPS
NOW MAY LESSEN SOME
MONEY STRESS

Diary Times Desk :
This holiday season may be filled with the usual delights and stresses of buying gifts, hosting and seeing extended family. But for some married couples, it also is a time of stress because they're contemplating whether to divorce in the new year.

One study from the University of Washington found that March is a peak month for divorce filings. And two divorce attorneys told CNN they see a surge of new clients coming in as early as January inquiring about next steps.

"They are waiting for the holidays to be over," said Kristen Shearin, a North Carolina-based divorce litigator, mediator and certified divorce financial analyst.

Given how financially fraught splitting up is, couples considering divorce might take a few steps now to prepare for what will happen if they do call it quits. Among them:

1. Learn about your state's divorce laws
"Every state is different in terms of how they deal with separation and divorce," said Lina Guillen, a divorce attorney who wrote the book *Divorce and Money* for NOLO, a publisher of plain-English legal information.

IF YOU WERE GIVEN A \$2,000 TARIFF 'REBATE CHECK,' WHAT
WOULD YOU DO WITH THE MONEY?

Diary Times Desk :
President Donald Trump has floated the idea of sending Americans "rebate checks" from the tariffs his administration has collected from US importers.

Trump said this week that "a dividend of at least \$2,000" will be "paid to everyone," while also stating that it would exclude "high income people." It remains to be seen whether the idea will even come to fruition: The Supreme Court is currently reviewing whether Trump's tariffs are legal, Congress would need to sign off on any dividend checks, and tariffs aren't bringing in enough to cover the amount Trump is promising for these checks anyway.

Even so, at a time when affordability concerns are hitting a fever pitch, we're interested in hearing from you about how your finances are holding up; and, if you were sent a check of this size, what you'd put the money toward.

We will not include anything in an upcoming article without first reaching out to you and interviewing you.



HOW ARE YOU APPROACHING YOUR HOLIDAY SPENDING THIS
YEAR?



Diary Times Desk : The holiday season is kicking into full gear at a time when affordability and the rising cost of living have escalated to crisis mode for many households.

Still, some shoppers say they intend to spend more on holiday gifts than they did last year, while others plan to pull back.

How are you approaching your holiday spending this year? Do you expect your paycheck to stretch far? Are you adjusting gift-giving or making other changes? If you're interested in sharing your experience and perspective with a CNN reporter for possible inclusion in an upcoming story, we'd like to hear from you.

We will not include anything in an upcoming article without first reaching out to you and interviewing you.

Physics and the laws of space and time tell me I'm wrong, but I swear the years are going by faster and faster. It's hard to believe Thanksgiving is already upon us and before you blink it will be Christmas and I'm having a mild panic attack about how to pay for it all.

I've traditionally held Thanksgiving at my home for local relatives and never thought twice about funding it all myself. This year is a bit different.

In fact, since these days I can barely pass my Publix supermarket without dropping a hundred bucks, I've asked my Thanksgiving guests to each bring a dish to share.

Affording Christmas this year will also be a bit of a challenge with a few new faces helping the family grow. My wife and I always come up with a budget but we seem to blow past it without even blinking. Don't get me wrong, we LOVE Christmas and there's no feeling better than seeing a loved one open that special gift on Christmas morning.

GREEN COVER

Diary Times Desk :Palampur is home to valiant military heroes like Major Som Nath Sharma, Captain Vikram Batra, Major Sudhir Walia and Captain Saurabh Kalia, all highly decorated Army officers who had laid down their lives for the nation. The place is also known for its natural beauty and myriad interesting attractions that make it a favourite tourist destination.

Palampur is also known as the 'Tea Capital' of north India due to sprawling gardens in and around the town. It has also become a major educational hub of Himachal Pradesh as several premier institutions such as CSK Himachal Pradesh Agriculture University, GC Neki College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences and the Council of Indian Institute of Scientific Research (CSIR-IHBT) are located here.

Palampur was once part of the Jalandhar kingdom. The town came into existence when Dr Jameson, Superintendent of Botanical Gardens, introduced tea bushes here in 1849. Before the 1905 Kangra earthquake, Palampur was the focal point of European tea estate owners. Since then Kangra tea has gained global recognition.

LONDON LETTER: BRITISH GOVT BANS EXPORT OF RARE 19TH- CENTURY KANGRA HILL PAINTINGS

Diary Times Desk : The British government has placed a temporary export bar on a rare, near-complete series of 56 early 19th-century Kangra hill paintings illustrating the Devi Mahatmya — the story of the Divine Mother — in an effort to keep the works in the country.

The move gives British museums and institutions a final window to raise funds and acquire the set before it can be sold abroad.

The paintings carry a distinguished Indian provenance, previously owned by Dr Alma Camruddin Latifi, a Cambridge-educated Indian Muslim civil servant from Bombay's Sulaymani Bohra community.

RESOLUTION DECLARES ANANDPUR SAHIB, TALWANDI SABO, GALIARA AROUND GOLDEN TEMPLE HOLY CITIES

Primary Times Desk : The Punjab Assembly on Monday unanimously passed a resolution declaring Anandpur Sahib in Rupnagar district, Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda and the Bialiara area around the Golden Temple in Amritsar as holy cities.

There will be a complete ban on sale and consumption of alcohol, meat and tobacco items at these places, according to the resolution.

The resolution on it was moved by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann during a special session of the Punjab Assembly, which was convened to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur here.

It was for the first time that a session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha was held outside state capital Chandigarh.



DHARMENDRA'S NATIVE VILLAGES IN PUNJAB MOURN DEATH OF THEIR SON

Diary Times Desk : Residents of Malerkotla and Ludhiana districts are mourning the loss of their beloved hero, Dharmendra Deol, who passed away on November 24, just two weeks before his 90th birthday. Born on December 8, 1935, in Nasrali village near Ludhiana, Dharmendra hailed from a Deol family in Dangan village, Raikot subdivision. He was married to Parkash Kaur Sohi from Banbhaura village in Malerkotla district in 1954.

Satbir Singh Sheera Banbhaura, a social activist and politician, expressed his village's sadness, saying their prayers for Dharmendra's recovery went unanswered. Warinder Singh Sohi, an NRI nephew of Parkash Kaur, recalled Dharmendra's participation in his wedding in 2005, alongside Sunny Deol. Bhushan Lomash of Issi village remembered Dharmendra's visits to his father, late Dilbag Rai Issa, with whom the actor worked before entering films.

Residents of Malwa are proud that their love for art and culture facilitated Dharmendra's entry into films. Dharmendra's marriage to Parkash Kaur in 1954 marked the beginning of his journey to stardom. He moved to Mumbai in the late 1950s to pursue acting, with Parkash Kaur as his anchor.

'HOLY CITY' STATUS FAILS TO IMPRESS ANANDPUR SAHIB RESIDENTS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab Government declared Anandpur Sahib a holy city on Sunday, passing a resolution during a special assembly session in the historic town to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. However, the announcement has left many residents feeling underwhelmed, as it fell short of their expectations.

Locals had anticipated major developmental declarations or the elevation of Anandpur Sahib to district status, but the move has been criticised as a “symbolic gesture” without substantive benefits. BJP state vice-president Subhash Sharma stated that Anandpur Sahib’s sanctity has long been recognised and didn’t require government certification.

"Anandpur Sahib has always been a holy city. Liquor vends and non-vegetarian eateries have never been allowed here. What people genuinely expected was district status or at least major development projects," Sharma said. "Instead, the government has given nothing concrete to the residents."

YOUR HOROSCOPE

25-11-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

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

Scorpio

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

Sagittarius

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

apricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

Today your interest in creative work will especially increase. Employed people may be given an important project by the 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.

SC RULING PUTS 60% OF
ARAVALLIS AT RISK

Diary Times Desk : Environmentalists have expressed serious concern over the future of the Aravalli range, particularly in Haryana, after the Supreme Court removed protection for hills with an elevation of less than 100 metres. In its recent order, while banning issuance of new mining licences, the court accepted an updated definition of the Aravalli hill range submitted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Under this definition, all hills below 100 metres are excluded from local relief and mining protection.

Experts warn this change could open up nearly 60 per cent of the entire Aravalli system to mining activities, posing a severe threat to biodiversity and climate resilience across North India. They have urged the court to reconsider the implications of adopting a uniform elevation-based definition for the ancient mountain.

"Destruction of these smaller hills would result in India's oldest mountain range losing its continuity which would lead to more gaps created in the range from where dust storms and the Thar desert would advance towards Eastern Rajasthan, Western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi-NCR.

HIGH COURT ALLOWS
HPSC'S APPEAL IN
SELECTION PROCESS OF
AYURVEDIC MEDICAL
OFFICERS

Diary Times Desk : A Double Bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court allowed an appeal by the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC),

ruling that candidates for Ayurvedic Medical Officer (AMO) posts were not entitled to any relief based on category certificates submitted after the specified deadline.

The court set aside an earlier single Bench order dated February 15, vide which the Bench ruled in favour of several writ petitioners, directing the HPSC to accept their reservation certificates BC(A), BC(B),

and EWS) even though they were submitted after the application deadline.

DARING DAYLIGHT ROBBERY: FAMILY PREPARING FOR WEDDING HELD HOSTAGE
IN KARNAL

Diary Times Desk : In a shocking incident, a family preparing for the wedding of their son was held hostage and the groom shot by armed assailants during a daylight robbery in Subhash Colony here on Monday. The robbers escaped with cash, gold, silver and ornaments worn by the women, and valuables from a car parked outside the residence.

As per the police, the incident took place around 8:20 am when around five armed men forcibly entered the house. They reportedly opened fire without warning and held the family hostage at gunpoint. During the chaos, the groom, Aditya Pasricha, who had recently arrived from Australia for his wedding scheduled on December 4, sustained a bullet injury. He is stated to be out of danger.

The robbers ransacked the house and fled with jewellery and other valuables. The family, still in shock, has yet to ascertain the total loss.



'HISTORIC AND PROUD MOMENT FOR
EVERY HARYANVI', SAYS
SURJEWALA AS JUSTICE SURYA
KANT TAKES OVER AS 53RD CJI

Diary Times Desk : Congress General Secretary Randeep Surjewala on Monday described Justice Surya Kant's elevation as the 53rd Chief Justice of India as a "historic and proud moment for every Haryanvi", as the senior judge from a small Hisar village took oath at the Rashtrapati Bhavan for a tenure of nearly 15 months.

Justice Surya Kant was administered the oath of office by President Droupadi Murmu at a brief ceremony in the Durbar Hall. He took the oath in Hindi in the name of God.

Reacting to the swearing-in, Surjewala said the moment was "not just a personal milestone, but a tribute to his humility, perseverance, and dedication". He underscored Justice Kant's journey "from a small village in Hisar", calling it a reflection of the "unfathomable power of courage, belief and hard work".

FARIDKOT COLDEST IN PUNJAB AT
4.4 DEGREES C, NARNAUL LEADS
HARYANA CHILL

Diary Times Desk : Faridkot in Punjab remained the coldest place in the state on Monday, with the minimum temperature settling at 4.4 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said.

On Sunday, Faridkot had also recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Punjab at 7.0 degrees Celsius.

According to data from the Meteorological Centre, Chandigarh, Bathinda recorded a minimum of 6.4 degrees Celsius on Monday, Gurdaspur registered 7.8 degrees, Amritsar 8.3 degrees, Ludhiana 7.6 degrees, Patiala 9.1 degrees and Ferozepur 7.5 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Narnaul was the coldest place, with the minimum temperature at 7.8 degrees Celsius, while Hisar recorded 7.9 degrees Celsius. Gurugram recorded 9.9 degrees Celsius, Karnal 8.6 degrees, Ambala 10.3 degrees, Rohtak 10 degrees, Bhiwani 10.5 degrees and Sirsa 9.6 degrees Celsius.

DOUBLE MURDER ACCUSED SHOT DEAD IN ENCOUNTER NEAR KMP EXPRESSWAY



Diary Times Desk : A joint team of the Special Unit for Anti-Gangster (SUAG), Sector-7, and the Crime Unit (West) of the Sonapat police on Sunday neutralised a wanted criminal during an encounter near the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway in the Kharkhoda area. His associate, however, managed to escape from the spot.

The deceased has been identified as Shubham, a resident of Chhappar village in Karnal district. According to Narender Kadyan, DCP Crime, Shubham was wanted in a double murder case involving the killing of a man and his son in the Kharkhoda area on October 24. "Shubham was wanted in a double murder case... the police team achieved a success in the case," the senior officer said.

This unmanned underwater robot can remove ocean trash

Marine litter is a major environmental problem. Abandoned containers and fishing gear can trap or strangle animals, and plastic waste can break down into microplastics, which can release chemicals into the water that get into the food chain. Some research suggests that eating microplastic might even interfere with plankton's ability to store carbon at the bottom of the ocean, which could impact climate change.

Between 1950 and 2020, 32 million metric tons of plastic accumulated in the ocean, according to one estimate — the weight of over 200,000 blue whales. Without any additional action, that figure is expected to reach 76 million tons by 2040.

A team of researchers and students is trying to change that — with an autonomous diving robot that can detect and retrieve litter from the seabed.



Jasmin Sykes
"It's not just a fun project to work on here at the university... but also a project that might then also help ports, and countries in general... to get rid of this rubbish," he says.

The Smart Grapple, developed at the Technical University of Munich (TUM), in Germany, uses an AI system to identify individual bits of trash using an onboard camera or, in murky water, sonar imaging.

It then grasps the object with its four-fingered hand — capable of lifting items up to around a meter (3 feet) long and wide, and weighing 250 kilograms (550 pounds) — and brings it to the surface. There, the waste is deposited on a small autonomous boat which takes it to the shore for recycling.

The diving robot is 115 centimeters (45 inches) high, with a diameter of 70 centimeters (28 inches), and weighs 120 kilograms (265 pounds).

It's connected to the boat by a cable which provides it with power, although it is also capable of moving underwater via its own thrusters.

Stefan Sosnowski, head of the research team at TUM, says the cable also aids the robot in bringing heavy items up to the surface.

"We can use the cable as basically the cable of a crane, and then the winch can pull up the system, which is more efficient than the little robot trying to swim things up," he explains.

Once the Smart Grapple has identified the item of trash, it displays it in 3D to pinpoint precisely how to grasp it securely in its powerful hand. A complex set of sensors ensure it exerts enough force to hold onto the object without breaking it into smaller pieces.

Nicolas Hoischen, a doctoral student at TUM, who has worked on the Smart Grapple for two years, says "the most satisfying part" has been seeing the robot in action.

"Because of course then you're projecting back two years ago, when you had a single arm, or maybe some small joint, and then you see the full grapple and it's really breathtaking and amazing to see, in two years, how far we can go," he says.



Eradicate Feral Cats

NEW ZEALAND SAYS IT'S GOING

New Zealand has announced plans to eradicate feral cats by 2050, as part of efforts to protect the country's biodiversity.



Jack Guy
"Feral cats are now found across Aotearoa New Zealand, from farms to forests, and they put huge pressure on native birds, bats, lizards and insects," added Potaka.

Speaking to Radio New Zealand on Thursday, conservation minister Tama Potaka said that feral cats are "stone cold killers" and would be added to the country's Predator Free 2050 list, which aims to eradicate those animals that have a negative impact on species such as birds, bats, lizards and insects.

Cats had previously been excluded from the list, which includes species such as stoats, ferrets, weasels, rats and possums, but Potaka used the interview to announce a U-turn.

He defined a feral cat as a wild animal that lives independently of humans. "They kill to survive," he said.

Among the options on the table to eradicate feral cats



The statement also revealed that more than 90% of the nearly 3,400 submissions received from the public as part of a recent consultation strategy backed improved feral cat management.

are poisoned sausage bait and a type of poison that would be sprayed from a device on a tree as they walk past, Potaka said.

"In order to boost biodiversity, to boost heritage landscape and to boost the type of place we want to see, we've got to get rid of some of these killers," he said.

In a statement published Friday, Potaka added more details to the plan. "We know people want their local reserves, beaches and bush tracks to be full of birds, not predators," he said.

"Feral cats are now found across Aotearoa New Zealand, from farms to forests, and they put huge pressure on native birds, bats, lizards and insects," added Potaka.

The ministry said that more than 100 short-tailed bats were killed in a single

week by feral cats near the town of Ohakune on the North Island, and they have also contributed to the near-extinction of the southern dotterel on Stewart Island.

"They also spread toxoplasmosis, which harms dolphins, affects people, and costs farmers through lost stock," he said.

The statement also revealed that more than 90% of the nearly 3,400 submissions received from the public as part of a recent consultation strategy backed improved feral cat management.

Jessi Morgan, chief executive of the Predator Free New Zealand Trust, a conservation organization that works to protect the country's native species, hailed the decision in an opinion piece published in local media outlet The Post on Friday.

"In June, when the Department of Conservation opened the Predator Free 2050 strategy up for consultation, they asked the public about feral cats," she wrote. "The response was loud and clear: feral cats belong on the target list."

Officials will release more details on the plan in an updated version of the Predator Free 2050 Strategy, which is scheduled for release in March.

The statement also addressed concerns around the impact on pet cats.

INFA

Does JD Vance Have

A PALANTIR PROBLEM?

In a recent conversation, Vice President JD Vance asked Roger Stone, President Donald Trump's longtime confidant, for his biggest concern facing the country. Stone later recalled on his radio show that his answer was a technology company Vance now hears about with increasing frequency: Palantir.



"You might think that the solution is easy: there are lots of male wild turkeys, particularly on Staten Island, so why not bring one to her?" Barrett said. "But a heavily used urban park like the Battery with unleashed dogs running around would be unsafe for raising tiny, defenseless wild turkey poults."

For years, Democrats have zeroed in on Vance's relationship with Palantir's co-founder Peter Thiel, the iconoclastic tech titan who gave Vance one of his first jobs and later put \$15 million behind his successful 2022 Ohio Senate bid.

But the pressure on Vance is now coming from inside Trump's coalition. As the administration steers billions of dollars of new work to Palantir, prominent voices have expressed fears that the firm's powerful data analytics tools could give the government sweeping, almost futuristic surveillance capabilities. MAGA architect Steve Bannon has likened Palantir to a sci-fi villain while comedian Joe Rogan called the company "creepy" on his top-ranked podcast.

The rising unease has put Vance on the defensive. At an October gathering of young conservatives at the University of Mississippi, he bristled at "this internet meme out there that somehow I am

super in bed with Palantir" when the company's name surfaced.

"Palantir is a private company," Vance added. "They sometimes do a useful service, and sometimes they're going to do things that we don't like." Since rising to the national scene, Vance has served as a bridge between the GOP's populist wing and the tech world he once occupied as a venture capitalist and biotech executive. He joined the Republican ticket last year with the backing of Bannon and former Fox News host Tucker Carlson, but also with the expectation he could convince his Silicon Valley allies to open their wallets for the campaign.

Palantir's emergence as an unlikely flashpoint comes amid a growing divide within the party over Trump's alliance with billionaire technology entrepreneurs. The tensions underscore the challenge ahead for Vance as he takes a leading role in helping to hold together Trump's movement — a task with clear implications for his own political ambitions.

Vance's office did not respond to a request for comment. A spokesperson for Palantir pointed CNN to a lengthy statement the company published in June, which seeks to rebut what it describes as "recurrent misconceptions" about

its operations.

"We are not a surveillance company," the statement reads. "We do not sell personal data of any kind. We don't provide data-



mining as a service."

A contracting behemoth

Founded two decades ago with a funding boost from American intelligence agencies, Palantir has become a go-to contractor for governments and businesses confronting enormous and complex data problems. Federal agencies, local police departments and foreign militaries increasingly rely on its software and AI models, but so do aerospace companies, hospitals and the makers of a pickleball paddle.

Palantir's government portfolio grew during Trump's first term and expanded further under President Joe Biden.

CEO Alex Karp backed Democrat Kamala Harris for president, but like many of his tech peers, he quickly pivoted after Trump won.

COUTURE FAVOURITES FROM A CONNOISSEUR OF COSTUME JEWELLERY: INSIDE THE FABULOUS COLLECTION OF SUSIE HOIMES

Diary Times Desk : Susie Hoimes has always been a collector at heart. Born in Kenya to British parents, she remembers gathering shells on the beaches of Mombasa, inspired by her father, a doctor who amassed various collections in the house over the years. In her early travels to Iran, East Africa, England, and later the United States, she scoured flea markets for antiques and anything exciting. 'When you travel, it exposes you to all kinds of cultures,' she tells Christie's. 'And over time you develop an eye and an appreciation for how all these influences have shaped style around the world.'

Today Hoimes is one of the fashion industry's preeminent experts on couture costume jewellery. Recommended by Vogue and frequented by celebrities, her San Francisco shop, MDVII, which operated from 1990 to 2021, became a global destination for collectors of vintage and archival pieces by important designers like Chanel, Dior, Pierre Cardin and Yves Saint Laurent. From 26 November to 11 December, an impressive selection of her favourite pieces spanning nearly every decade since the 1920s comes to Christie's. The Susie Hoimes Collection: The Art of Costume Jewellery will be sold in Handbags Online: The New York Edit.

'Susie's knowledge and experience guided every selection in this truly exceptional grouping of fashion jewels, which Christie's is proud to bring to market,' says Max Brownawell, Head of Handbags and Accessories at Christie's New York. From rare 1930s Chanel haute couture works to a geometric bib necklace from Karl Lagerfeld's last collection for Chanel in 2019, every piece in the collection is offered without reserve.

Pieces that tell the history of costume jewellery

Costume jewellery, typically characterised by bold designs made with non-precious metals and stones, emerged in the 1700s when glass and later rhinestones were used in place of gems. In the 1920s, the trend reached new heights when fashion couturiers began producing their own designs that elevated the art form. Coco Chanel paved the way when she introduced trousers for women and chose to pair them with bold strands of imitation pearls. Coco Chanel frequently collaborated with Suzanne Grippoix of Maison Grippoix, famed for their poured glass jewellery. A highlight of the upcoming sale is a 1930s blue and green Grippoix glass, Strass crystal and faux pearl statement necklace by Chanel, which Hoimes acquired from her friend, the collector Susan Kelner Freeman. Hoimes knew this rare piece would sell in the shop immediately but chose to keep it for her personal collection.



A VERY RARE, NEWLY DISCOVERED MICHELANGELO STUDY FOR THE SISTINE CHAPEL CEILING

Diary Times Desk : Michelangelo Buonarroti was born in 1475 in Caprese, southeast of Florence, to an impoverished Florentine family of minor nobility. In the sixteenth century, when longevity was exceptional, he lived to eighty-eight, dying in Rome in 1564 as an extremely famous and wealthy man.

Throughout his life, Michelangelo drew constantly. It was through drawing that he planned and prepared his projects, developed his inventions, and refined his ideas.

Unfortunately, the surviving sheets by his hand, numbering roughly six hundred, total only a fraction of the thousands of drawings he must have produced.

Very rarely new drawings have been rediscovered and added to Michelangelo's graphic corpus over the decades. Almost all of Michelangelo's known studies, excluding architectural drawings and the sketches of marble blocks Michelangelo used to send to his quarry masters, are now in public collections. Only about ten sheets, including this newly discovered drawing, are in private hands. Furthermore, no recorded study for the Sistine Chapel has ever come to auction — until now.

The Sistine Chapel ceiling

In the two decades between 1500 and 1520 Michelangelo was in his physical and artistic prime. At that time, he lived and worked between Florence and Rome, undertaking several of the most prestigious and monumental projects of his career, including a commission from Rome by Pope Julius II della Rovere to paint the enormous vault of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

The enterprise was ambitious, as the surface of the vault measures about 530 square meters (5,700 square feet), yet Michelangelo conceived an elaborate decorative program for it.

He designed a painted illusionistic architectural framework simulating white marble with, at the center of the vault, nine compartments with episodes from the Book of Genesis.

Flanking the biblical scenes are twenty ignudi (athletic nude youths) seated on illusionistic plinths next to fictive bronze medallions with episodes from the Book of Maccabees. Below these figures, seven monumental Prophets alternate with five Sibyls, each seated on a throne around the ceiling. Immediately after receiving the commission for the Sistine ceiling, Michelangelo began working on studies for the frescoes. Over the following months and years, he continued to produce studies, proceeding piecemeal as he painted the ceiling gradually, completing one bay of the vault after another. Through preparatory drawings Michelangelo studied each of the figures, meticulously planning every detail of their poses and anatomy.



OFFICIAL: BARCELONA SQUAD LIST TO FACE CHELSEA | UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE



Diary Times Desk : Barcelona have announced their squad that will travel to Stamford Bridge this midweek, as they take on Chelsea tomorrow.

It is a must-win game for a Catalan side coming on the back of a 3-3 draw with Olympiacos in the last round.

Fortunately for Hansi Flick’s men, the club are slowly starting to retrieve the injured players, with Joan Garcia notably making a heroic comeback this past weekend.

Raphinha also featured as a substitute, and the Brazilian international will travel with the team for the Chelsea clash. The biggest news is the return of Marcus Rashford, who has been cleared fit to play. The Englishman’s knowledge of Chelsea could serve as a major boost for Barcelona. While Rashford was able to make the list, Pedri missed out as expected. However, the Spaniard will reportedly travel with the team to London and will celebrate his birthday on Tuesday.

“EVERYTHING HAPPENS FOR A REASON” – CHELSEA DEFENDER REFLECTS ON LEAVING BARCELONA

Diary Times Desk : Chelsea defender Marc Cucurella stepped in front of the media to discuss the significance of hosting Barcelona at Stamford Bridge in the UEFA Champions League.

For the Spanish defender, the match carries far more emotional weight than usual, given his history at La Masia and his early years with the Catalan club.

Now firmly established in the Chelsea squad, Cucurella reflected on the importance of the upcoming encounter as the Blues aim to secure their place among the top eight in the group stage.

Cucurella spoke openly about what the occasion means to him personally. Offering a glimpse into his mindset, he explained,

“It’s very exciting for me and my family. It’s a very special match and I hope we can get the points.

“I don’t think much about the past and whether I would have stayed at Barça. Everything happens for a reason. I’m very happy with my career.”

BARCELONA PULLS PLAYER REHABILITATION DUTIES FROM KEY STAFF AFTER INJURY COMPLAINTS

Diary Times Desk : In a major development, Barcelona have reportedly restructured its physical preparation staff, relieving Julio Tous’s team of primary responsibility for player rehabilitation.

This is according to The Athletic, which suggests that the decision came following an increase in complaints from key players and managerial frustration over recurring injuries.

Barcelona have dealt with several high-profile injuries this season, including setbacks to key attackers and midfielders that have compounded the problems for coach Hansi Flick.

Rehab duties reassigned
As per the report, the management had initially elevated Tous to oversee full rehabilitation protocols before the start of the season, expressing satisfaction with his past work. However, player discontent quickly mounted. Following his return from international duty in Croatia, forward Lamine Yamal formally complained about the handling of his injury and requested a change in the physical preparation staff – a request that was subsequently approved by the club.

BARCELONA FACE CHELSEA WITH FOUR PLAYERS ONE BOOKING AWAY FROM SUSPENSION

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona head into their trip to London knowing that this Champions League fixture will reveal far more than just their current form.

After a disappointing defeat to Paris Saint-Germain and a frustrating draw against Club Brugge, the team has finally shown signs of recovery in recent matches.

Now, Hansi Flick wants to see whether those improvements can hold up under the pressure of a crucial European night away from home.

The manager is still weighing a few decisions regarding the starting line-up, partly because several squad members are walking a dangerous disciplinary tightrope.

Players at risk
As such, four players, namely, Lamine Yamal, Frenkie de Jong, Fermin Lopez and Marc Casado, will enter the match one yellow card away from suspension.

Should any of them be booked again, they will automatically miss Barcelona’s next Champions League outing, which is against Eintracht Frankfurt at the Camp Nou.



CHELSEA MANAGER ADMITS HE IS IN AWE OF FLICK’S BARCELONA – ‘EVERY TIME I WATCH THEM, I LEARN SOMETHING’

Diary Times Desk : As Chelsea prepare for one of their biggest European nights of the season, Enzo Maresca has taken a noticeably respectful tone when speaking about Hansi Flick’s Barcelona.

The Champions League clash has captured wide attention, and while Chelsea arrive in good form after back-to-back Premier League wins against Wolverhampton (3-0) and Burnley (0-2), Maresca made it clear that beating Barcelona will require a level of precision and discipline his side cannot afford to compromise on.

Setting the tone for the week ahead, Maresca explained the scale of the challenge, saying,

“It’s a big week, but at the end of this week, we have another big week. Every game is important. Of course, Barcelona and Arsenal are important for different reasons, and we are ready.”

He then openly praised Flick’s impact on the Catalan side, adding context to the looming tactical battle by stating that “Flick’s Barça looks spectacular to me.”

BARCELONA MIDFIELDER’S FITNESS CREATES RIFT BETWEEN CLUB DOCTORS AND PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

Diary Times Desk : With Raphinha and Joan Garcia back in the dynamics for the team’s game against Athletic Club, Hansi Flick moved one step closer to having a fully-fit squad at his disposal.

Barring Gavi and Marc-Andre Ter Stegen who are yet to return, Pedri is the only significant first-team player currently ruled out of action and the Canary Islander was expected to make it back in time to face Chelsea tomorrow night.

Earlier today, however, it was revealed that the player is indeed ruled out of the Champions League clash midweek as his recovery has not moved quite as fast as the club had hoped.

As relayed by SER (h/t FCB World) in a recent report, the club physiotherapists see Pedri to be ready for the game against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge tomorrow night. Club doctors, however, did not agree on his progress and felt that his recovery would be better delayed until later in the week. After all, the player is too valuable in the scheme of things to be risked.