

NEWS IN BRIEF

**SC UPHOLDS
DISMISSAL OF
CHRISTIAN ARMY
OFFICER FOR
REFUSING TO JOIN
REGIMENT'S
RELIGIOUS RITUALS**

Diary Times Desk : Terming it as "the grossest kind of indiscipline", the Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the dismissal of Christian Army officer for his refusal to participate in regimental 'sarva dharma sthal' ritual in a Cantonment area in Punjab.

Lt Samuel Kamalesan — who was commanding Sikh, Jat and Rajput jawans — had allegedly refused to enter the 'sarva dharma sthal', saying a gurdwara and a temple were there.

"What kind of message he has been sending...he should have been thrown out for this only...the grossest kind of indiscipline by an Army official," a Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joyimalya Bagchi said, dismissing his plea.

The Bench noted that he had refused to take part in 'sarva dharma' ritual even after being counselled by a Pastor. "Leaders have to lead by example. You are insulting your troops... If this is the attitude of an Army officer, then what to say!" the CJ said.

**SC FLAGS MISUSE
OF RAPE LAW; SAYS
BREAK-UP OF
CONSENSUAL
RELATIONSHIP
CAN'T BE TREATED
AS RAPE**

Diary Times Desk : Flagging misuse of rape law, the Supreme Court has said that a break-up of consensual relationship between two adults cannot be treated as a crime so as to invoke rape charges against the man.

"This court has, on numerous occasions, taken note of the disquieting tendency wherein failed or broken relationships are given the colour of criminality. The offence of rape, being of the gravest kind, must be invoked only in cases where there exists genuine sexual violence, coercion, or absence of free consent," a Bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice R Mahadevan said, quashing a rape case filed against a lawyer.

RAM
TEMPLE'WOUNDS OF CENTURIES HEALING TODAY': PM MODI HOISTS
FLAG ATOP 191-FOOT-HIGH RAM TEMPLE

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi today hoisted a saffron flag atop the 191-foot-high 'shikhara' of the Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, marking formal completion of its construction.

"Wounds and pain of centuries are healing today," he said, adding, "A 500-year-old resolve is being fulfilled." The PM said, "Ayodhya is witnessing another epochal event in its history. The entire country and the globe is immersed in Ram."

"This sacred flag will stand as a testament that truth ultimately triumphs over falsehood. Our Ram doesn't discriminate and we too are moving forward with the same spirit," he said. The Prime Minister said, "By 2047, when we complete 100 years of

India's Independence, we will have to ensure a developed India. Our goal should be to free India from mentality of slavery in next 10 years."

He said what Lord Macaulay envisioned was very extensive, adding that "we gained Independence but did not free ourselves from sense of inferiority".

Macaulay was a British politician who shaped modern Indian education by advocating English as the medium of instruction through his "Minute on Indian Education" in 1835.

The PM said it was a distortion that "we borrowed democracy from abroad; democracy is in our DNA".

Modi was accompanied by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Earlier, he held a roadshow to the temple, visited the newly-built Sapt Mandir, which houses temples of Maharshi Vashishtha, Maharshi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Agastya, Maharshi Valmiki, Devi Ahilya, Nishadraj Guha and Mata Shabari.

"Landed in Ayodhya to take part in the Dhawajrohan Utsav at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir," PM Modi wrote in a Facebook post. The 'Dharma Dhwaaj' carries three sacred symbols, Om, the Sun and the Kovidara tree, each representing profound spiritual values rooted in the Sanatan tradition.

NOT JUST A MODI-ERA PROBLEM: NEHRU'S FILES REVEAL DEEP-ROOTED LEGACY OF ILLEGAL MIGRATION
FROM PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : People from Punjab and Haryana venturing abroad illegally is not a new phenomenon. Decades ago, India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, had expressed concern over Punjabis travelling overseas using forged passports.

During Prime Minister Modi's tenure, deportations have occurred mainly from the United States. But during Nehru's time, the destinations were Britain and Italy.

In a note to the then Foreign Secretary Subimal Dutt on June 10, 1959, Nehru wrote, "It appears that this has been a long-standing practice in which quite a number of people are involved, though it is not very easy to get formal proof. As the people involved occupy some kind of status in society, this makes it even more difficult to deal with the matter." He further observed, "As far as I know, most of these passport-fraud cases originate from Punjab, particularly the Jalandhar division. I also understand that one travel agency in Delhi, Iyer & Sons, or some of its employees, are frequently implicated."

He instructed, "I want our passport issuing offices to be particularly careful in these matters coming from the Jullundur Division..."

"DON'T TREAT MUSLIM CHILDREN LIKE
THIS": OMAR ABDULLAH AMID ADMISSION
ROW

Diary Times Desk : Denying meritorious Muslim students admission to educational institutions on religious grounds would push them towards radicalism, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah warned today amid an escalating row over admissions to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence.

The institute began its first batch this year.

"You are right about faith. Then, when you were building the medical college, you should have given it the status of a minority institute. Why didn't you give it? You should have given it, but you did not. Admission is based solely on the NEET entrance test; it is not determined by religion. Now, if you don't want Muslims to study in it, that is fine, sir. You declare it a minority institute, please do it," Chief Minister Abdullah, responding to the objection by the leader of the opposition in the J&K Assembly, told reporters in Nagrota.

A delegation of BJP MLAs led by Sunil Sharma, the opposition leader, met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday, and demanded cancellation of the admission list and the reservation of seats for only those students who have faith in Mata Vaishno Devi.

"They have got admission on merit, get them admitted somewhere else. But tomorrow, when you point fingers against Muslims, you say that they have become communal, they have become sectarian, they do not tolerate others, then remember this: When you do not accept their children, then tomorrow, when something happens, do not blame the entire community," Omar Abdullah said.

6 KILLED, 8 INJURED IN COLLISION BETWEEN
TEMPO, TRUCK IN BIHAR'S SHEIKHPURA

Diary Times Desk : Six persons, including a minor, died and eight others were injured after a speeding truck collided head-on with a tempo in Bihar's Sheikhpura district on Tuesday, police said.

The accident took place around 1 pm near Maniyanda More when the truck hit the tempo, which was carrying 14 persons, they said.

Four of the injured are in critical condition, a police officer said.

The deceased have been identified as Rahul Kumar, Asha Devi, Surti Devi, Nisha Kumari, Rajkumar Saw and Mahesh Kumar, all belonging to Bengucha village in the Karande police station area.

The critically injured have been referred to Vardhaman Medical College and Hospital in Pawapuri for further treatment, he said.

"All the injured were rushed to Sadar Hospital, where doctors declared five passengers dead on arrival, while one more succumbed during treatment," Traffic Police SHO Sadashiv said.

The truck driver abandoned the vehicle and fled after the accident.

HINDU PAKISTANI COUPLE

HINDU PAKISTANI COUPLE
ELOPES, CROSSES INTO
KUTCH ON FOOT;
DETAINED BY BSF

Diary Times Desk : A Hindu Pakistani couple, facing opposition from their families to their marriage, eloped from their homes and made an arduous journey on foot to the India-Pakistan border in Gujarat's Kutch district, only to be detained by the security forces.

According to the police, personnel from the Border Security Force (BSF) detained the Pakistani man and his girlfriend, identified as Popat (24) and Gauri (20), after they crossed the international border on Monday.

Popat and Gauri had fled their homes at Mithi village in Pakistan, 8 km from the international border, on Sunday night, and covered the distance on foot, an official from the Balasar police station said.

BSF personnel patrolling near pillar number 1016 detained the duo, he said. During questioning, the couple revealed that they had eloped as their families were against their marriage, the official said.

He said the duo will be taken to a joint interrogation centre in Bhuj for further investigation by the central agencies, after which a first information report will be registered.

According to the police, this is the second such incident in two months. Earlier, two people were similarly detained at the border on October 8.

CUSTODIAL
VIOLENCE/DEATH A BLOT
ON SYSTEM: SUPREME
COURT

Diary Times Desk : Describing custodial violence and custodial death as a "blot" on the system, The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the country will not tolerate this.

"Now this country will not tolerate this. This is a blot on the system. You can't have deaths in custody," a Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta said while hearing a suo motu case on lack of functional CCTV cameras in police stations across India.

Referring to its September 4 order passed in the matter, the Bench said 11 deaths were reported in police custody in eight months in Rajasthan as it wondered if the Centre was taking the issue lightly.

The top court expressed its displeasure over the Government's response to its direction to instal CCTV cameras in police stations and offices of CBI, ED and NIA to prevent custodial torture.



CYCLONE ALERT WITHDRAWN, TAMIL NADU ON COURSE FOR HEAVY RAINS



Diary Times Desk : Tamil Nadu is bracing for several more days of significant rainfall even as the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has withdrawn its earlier indication of a possible cyclone formation over the Bay of Bengal.

In its latest update on Tuesday, the agency did not refer to cyclone development, and instead said that the ongoing weather activity is being driven by two low-pressure systems, both capable of producing widespread heavy rain despite lacking the organisation required for a cyclonic storm.

According to the officials, the well-marked low-pressure area that lay over Malaysia has now strengthened into a depression. Though still far from Indian waters, the system is moving slowly west-northwestwards. Its broad circulation is enhancing cross-equatorial moisture flow and feeding the monsoon surge over southern peninsular India.

PRO-POLICE PROTEST IN DELHI AMID OUTRAGE OVER SLOGANS

PRAISING MADVI HIDMA

Diary Times Desk : Scores of people assembled at the India Gate in a show of support for the Delhi Police on Tuesday, two days after videos surfaced allegedly showing protesters raising slogans praising Maoist commander Madvi Hidma during an air-pollution demonstration here.

Protesters held placards reading: "We support Delhi Police", "Stop shielding anti-nationals", "Nation against Hidma", "Nation against Naxalism", accusing "anti-national elements" of infiltrating civic protests to promote extremist ideology.

Several participants shouted slogans asserting solidarity with the police force and demanding strict action against those who allegedly hailed the Maoist leader.

A protest for clean air was held at the India Gate on Sunday, videos of which have surfaced online, allegedly showing protesters raising slogans praising Maoist commander Madvi Hidma.

NEW LABOUR LAWS LIKELY TO GENERATE 77 LAKH NEW JOBS: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : The implementation of the government's new labour reforms could significantly boost employment and formalisation in India's labour market over the medium term, highlighted a report by the State Bank of India (SBI).

The report stated that the new labour codes could reduce unemployment by up to 1.3 per cent, which would translate into additional employment generation of 77 lakh people.

It stated "India's new Labour Codes after a short transition phase could reduce unemployment by upto 1.3 per cent over the medium term..... This would imply additional employment generation of 77 lakh people".

This assessment is based on the current labour force participation rate of individuals aged 15 years and above at 60.1 per cent, and the average working-age population at 70.7 per cent across rural and urban regions.

HOW CHINA'S SOCIAL MEDIA CURBS WORSENER ARUNACHAL WOMAN'S AIRPORT ORDEAL

Diary Times Desk : Prema Wangjom Thongdok -- an Arunachal Pradesh-born UK resident-- has claimed that she was detained and harassed by Chinese officials at Shanghai airport for nearly 18 hours after they refused to acknowledge her Indian passport as "valid".

Speaking to NDTV, Thongdok noted that China's social media ban and strict internet policies exacerbated her ordeal further, as she was unable to contact anyone for help.

Thongdok, who originally comes from the Rupa area in the West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, has been living in the United Kingdom for 14 years, where she works as a financial adviser. The incident occurred on November 21, when she was travelling from London to Japan, with a planned three-hour transit in Shanghai.

The Harassment

Thongdok, who is currently in Bangkok after being denied onwards travel to Japan from China, said she was "singled out" by a Chinese immigration official at the security gate of Shanghai airport, pointing to "Arunachal" on her passport to claim it was invalid.



KOCHI FIRM FIRST PRIVATE ENTITY IN INDIA TO DESIGN NAVY WARSHIP

Diary Times Desk : When the Indian Navy commissioned INS Mahe on Monday, it was not just the launch of a new anti-submarine warfare (ASW) corvette, it was a landmark for India's private ship design ecosystem. The Mahe-class lead ship, built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL), is the first Indian naval vessel designed by a private firm. And it has a Kochi tag.

Smart Engineering & Design Solutions (India) Pvt Ltd (SEDS), a naval architecture company operating out of Kakkannad, has etched its name as a pioneer in the sector.

INS Mahe, the first of eight shallow-water ASW corvettes, represents both a technological leap and a shift in how India is opening its defence architecture to private players.

"Frontline ships like aircraft carriers will continue to be designed by the Warship Design Bureau. But the government has been encouraging private sector participation to strengthen the shipbuilding ecosystem. INS Mahe is the first major result of that effort," said Hariraj Puliyanokadan, COO of SEDS which employs 153 people.

AIR EMERGENCY: DELHI, NEARBY AREAS GASPED FOR BREATH ALL THROUGH NOVEMBER

Diary Times Desk : India is battling for one of its most fundamental needs - clean air. In Delhi, residents have been protesting against toxic smog as the city's air quality has remained in the 'very poor' to 'severe' category for weeks. Doctors warn that breathing this air is harmful even for healthy individuals and advise those with lung or heart conditions to leave the city if possible.

Schools have shifted classes online, and emergency measures like work-from-home and construction bans are in place. But residents say these steps are far from enough.

AQI Snapshot: North India Dominates The Polluted List

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data for today, 22 out of 240 monitored cities fall under the 'very poor' category (AQI between 301 and 400), accounting for about 9 per cent of all monitoring stations. Most of these cities are in North India.

There are no cities in the 'severe' category today, but 13 per cent of stations report 'poor' air quality (AQI 201-300). On a positive note, 21 cities are in the 'good' category with AQI below 50.

Top Polluted Cities Today

Hapur tops the list with an AQI of 389, followed by Noida (373), Greater Noida (364), Manesar (356), and Delhi (353), all of which come under the National Capital Region (NCR). Within Delhi, Rohini is currently the most polluted locality.

"WIFE'S PREGNANCY CAN'T ERASE ACTS OF CRUELTY": DELHI COURT GRANTS DIVORCE TO MAN

Diary Times Desk : Pregnancy or temporary reconciliation cannot erase the previous acts of cruelty and abusive conduct of the wife towards her husband, the Delhi High Court has said while granting a divorce decree to a man. The high court stated that cruelty must be judged based on the entirety of the circumstances, rather than isolated episodes of reconciliation. A bench of Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Renu Bhatnagar made the observations while setting aside a family court's judgment by which it had dismissed the man's petition for dissolution of marriage on the ground of cruelty meted out to him by his wife. "The family court also placed reliance on the respondent's (wife) miscarriage in early 2019 to infer harmonious relations between the parties. Such an inference is legally untenable," the bench said in its November 20 judgment.

PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI ADDRESSES SHRI RAM JANMABHOOMI MANDIR DHWAJAROHAN UTSAV IN AYODHYA

Diary Times Desk : Today, the entire country and entire world is filled with the spirit of Lord Shri Ram: PM

The Dharma Dhwaaja is not merely a flag, but it is the flag of the renaissance of Indian civilization: PM
Ayodhya is the land where ideals transform into conduct: PM

The divine courtyard of the Ram Mandir is also becoming a consciousness site of India's collective strength: PM

Our Ram connects not through differences, but through emotions: PM

We are a vibrant society and must work with foresight, keeping in mind the coming decades and centuries: PM

Ram signifies ideals, Ram signifies discipline, and Ram signifies the supreme character of life: PM

Ram is not just a person, but Ram is a value, a discipline, and a direction: PM

If India is to become developed by the year 2047 and if society is to be empowered, then we must awaken "Ram" within ourselves: PM
For the nation to move forward, it must take pride in its heritage: PM

'IF THEY TRY TO TOUCH BENGAL, WE WILL SHAKE THE ENTIRE COUNTRY': MAMATA BANERJEE'S WARNING FOR BJP AMID SIR ROW



Diary Times Desk : As the controversy over Bengal SIR snowballed, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and said that "if they try to touch Bengal, we will shake the entire country". While addressing a rally against SIR in North 24 Parganas district, the TMC chief said, "Elections were held in Bihar. Bihar opposition leaders were 'bechara'; they couldn't understand BJP's game. We understand their game, and we won't let their game succeed in Bengal. If they try to touch Bengal, we will shake the entire country..."

"BJP is technically selling you cards in the name of CAA card and collecting money. Your undertaking as a Bangladeshi Hindu will put you in more trouble."

WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER GURU TEGH BAHADUR TO BE SET UP IN ANANDPUR SAHIB, SAYS PUNJAB CM MANN

Diary Times Desk : A day after the Punjab assembly unanimously passed a resolution declaring Anandpur Sahib, Talwandi Sabo and the walled city of Amritsar as holy cities. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday announced that a world-class university in the name of the ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur will be set up at Anandpur Sahib. Addressing a gathering at the concluding ceremony of the government-organised Sarv Dharam Sammelan at Guru Ka Bagh, Baba Budha Dal Cantonment, held to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, CM Mann said, "A world-class university in the name of Guru Tegh Bahadur will be set up here." He added that the proposed university would become a global centre for high-quality education, research.

CANADA'S FOREIGN MINISTER ANITA ANAND SAYS OTTAWA IS WORKING FAST TO ADVANCE INDIA TRADE DEAL

Diary Times Desk : Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said Monday that Canada and India will move quickly to advance a trade deal after two years of strained relations, noting Ottawa has a new foreign policy in response to US President Donald Trump's trade war.

Anand's statement follows a meeting between Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Group of 20 summit in South Africa this past weekend, where the leaders agreed to restart stalled talks for a new trade deal.

Relations between Canada and India have been strained since Canadian police accused New Delhi of playing a role in the June 2023 assassination of a Canadian Sikh activist near Vancouver.



"MISFIT FOR ARMY": COURT RAPS CHRISTIAN OFFICER WHO DIDN'T ENTER GURDWARA

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Tuesday criticised a Christian Army officer fired for refusing to enter a gurdwara (to perform a puja) and labelled him a "cantankerous man" and a "misfit", and backed the armed forces' decision to eject him for failing to respect his fellow (Sikh) soldiers' faith.

"What kind of message is he sending? Gross indiscipline by an Army officer. He should have been terminated. This kind of cantankerous persons deserves to be in the military?" a bench led by the new Chief Justice Surya Kant said.

"He may be an outstanding officer but he is a misfit for the Indian Army. The amount of responsibilities our forces have at this time... this is not what we want to entertain."

Formerly a Lieutenant in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Samuel Kamalesan was sacked for defying military discipline; he refused a command.

RSF ANNOUNCES UNILATERAL
THREE-MONTH 'HUMANITARIAN
TRUCE' IN SUDAN

Diary Times Desk :
Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have announced an apparently unilateral three-month humanitarian truce in the country's civil war.

RSF commander Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, also known as Hemedti, made the announcement on Monday in a recorded address. The warring Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan did not immediately confirm that any agreement had been reached.

Al-Burhan late on Sunday had rejected a ceasefire proposal put forward by the so-called Quad – Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. He took particular issue with the presence in the grouping of the UAE, which has long rejected accusations that it is arming and funding the RSF.

On Monday, Hemedti said the RSF agreed to the truce in cooperation with the Quad, the African Union and the regional Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) bloc and sought to enhance civilian protections and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid.

ROBOT BREAKS WORLD RECORD
WITH 66-MILE WALK IN CHINA

Diary Times Desk : Chinese tech firm AgiBot earned a Guinness World Record when its humanoid robot, A2, went for a 66-mile walk from Jiangsu Province to Shanghai.

The robot set off from Jinji Lake and arrived at Shanghai's Bund in a single continuous walk made possible by a system devised to allow the robot to swap batteries while continuing to operate. The 24-hour trek earned AgiBot the Guinness World Records title for the longest journey walked by a humanoid robot.

AgiBot said A2 followed all traffic laws during its long trek and walked across various surfaces including asphalt, tiled pavement and bridges.

The robot interacted with reporters at the end of its walk, stating that it might now "need a new pair of shoes," the Global Times reported.

JUDGE DISMISSES CASES AGAINST EX-FBI DIRECTOR COMEY AND NY
ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES

Diary Times Desk : A US judge has dismissed criminal charges against former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, ruling that the prosecutor who brought the charges was unlawfully appointed. Judge Cameron Currie said that Lindsey Halligan, who was handpicked by Trump to bring the charges against two of his political adversaries, was never eligible to assume the post. Both Comey and James have maintained their innocence and described the prosecutions as political in nature. In response to the ruling, the White House told the BBC: "The facts of the indictments against Comey and James have not changed and this will not be the final word on this matter." President Donald Trump has repeatedly attacked Comey and James, declaring in one social media post, "They're all guilty as hell", and later adding "JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED, NOW!!!" In her decision on Monday, Judge Currie wrote that Halligan, a former White House aide who had never prosecuted a case before, was not authorised to present the charges to the grand jury.



TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ORDERS
REVIEW OF BIDEN-ERA REFUGEES, MEMO
SHOWS

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's administration has ordered a broad vetting review of all refugees who entered under former President Joe Biden, an internal US government memo seen by Reuters said. The order would apply to roughly 200,000 refugees who entered between January 20, 2021 and February 20, 2025, according to the memo signed by US Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Joe Edlow. It also orders a halt to all processing of applications for permanent residence for refugees who entered under Biden. USCIS did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Trump, a Republican, froze refugee admissions into the US from around the world when he took office in January as part of his wide-ranging crackdown on legal and illegal immigration. Trump's hardline approach was a sharp reversal of the more liberal policies of his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, whose administration welcomed more than 100,000 refugees in fiscal 2024.

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.

TEAM TRUMP INCHES
CLOSER TO LAUNCH 'GOLD
CARD' VISA. CHECK COST,
ELIGIBILITY

Diary Times Desk : The Donald Trump administration is inching closer to introducing its "Gold Card" visa. The programme would grant US residency to wealthy foreigners willing to make hefty financial contributions.

The US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has now filed a draft of Form I-140G with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before the application system can open. The government is working towards a December 18 launch, pending approval.

CARNEY SAYS TRADE TALKS
WITH TRUMP TO RESUME
'WHEN IT MATTERS'

Diary Times Desk :Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney says trade talks with the US will resume "when it's appropriate", dismissing questions about his most recent communication with President Donald Trump .

Asked when he last spoke to Trump, Carney responded: "Who cares? It's a detail. I'll speak to him again when it matters."

The prime minister's remarks come after trade talks were derailed last month when Trump took offence at an anti-tariff advertisement featuring Ronald Reagan, which was aired by the province of Ontario. Talking on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in Johannesburg on Sunday, Carney suggested that talks with the president could take place "probably in the next two weeks". Despite tensions, Trump is yet to impose a threatened additional 10% tariff on Canadian imports over the Ontario ad.

The ad, which featured clips of former President Ronald Reagan's 1987 radio address in which he argued that tariffs would hurt America's economy, was interpreted by Trump as an attack on his policies. Trump argues tariffs will boost American manufacturing and create jobs.

Since Trump's announcement of tariffs against several key allies, Canada has become the only G7 nation without a trade deal with the US despite being a major trading partner. The US has imposed a 35% levy on all Canadian goods - though most are exempt under an existing free trade agreement. It has also slapped sector-specific levies on Canadian goods, including a 50% levy on metals and 25% on automobiles.

TRUMP ORDERS BLACKLISTING MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD BRANCHES AS
'TERRORIST' GROUPS



Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump has ordered his aides to start a process to label the branches of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan as "terrorist" organisations, citing their alleged support for the Palestinian group Hamas. Trump issued the decree on Monday as Washington intensified its crackdown on Israel's foes in the region.

The decree accused Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Jordan of providing "material support" to Hamas and the Lebanese branch of the group – known as al-Jamaa al-Islamiya – of siding with Hamas and Hezbollah in their war with Israel.

It also claimed that an Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood leader "called for violent attacks against United States partners and interests" during Israel's war on Gaza. But it was not clear what the White House was referring to. The Muslim Brotherhood has been banned in Egypt and mostly driven underground.

"President Trump is confronting the Muslim Brotherhood's transnational network, which fuels terrorism and destabilization campaigns against US interests and allies in the Middle East," the White House said.

TRUMP SIGNS ORDER TO LAUNCH
'GENESIS MISSION' TO SPEED UP AI-
DRIVEN RESEARCH

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump signed an executive order Monday establishing the "Genesis Mission," a national initiative to harness AI for scientific breakthroughs, comparing its scope to the Manhattan Project that produced the atomic bomb during World War II. The plan is part of the Trump administration's aggressive, low-regulation strategy to boost big tech's race to stay ahead of China on artificial intelligence and cement US dominance in the fast-expanding field. The White House is also seeking ways to legally stop US states from implementing their own AI regulations and has threatened to rescind federal aid to states that do so.

CHINA SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHES
SHENZHOU-22 SPACECRAFT

Diary Times Desk : China has successfully launched the Shenzhou-22 spacecraft at 12:11 pm on Tuesday from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center, according to China Manned Space Agency. The launch came after the Chinese Space Station recently experienced its first major unexpected emergency, as Shenzhou-20 spacecraft was struck by space debris, disrupting its planned return. In response, the Shenzhou-20 crew successfully returned to Earth by "borrowing" the Shenzhou-21 spacecraft, while ground teams rapidly prepared for the launch of Shenzhou-22. A few minutes after liftoff, the CMSA announced that the Shenzhou-22 spacecraft successfully separated from the Long March rocket and entered its planned orbit, marking a complete success for the launch mission.

UKRAINE ALLIES GIVE CAUTIOUS WELCOME TO 'MODIFIED' PEACE FRAMEWORK

Diary Times Desk : European allies of Ukraine have given a cautious welcome to efforts to refine a United States peace proposal initially criticised for appearing to be weighted in favour of Russia's maximalist demands.

The leaders of Germany, Finland, Poland and the United Kingdom were among those agreeing on Monday that progress had been made in the previous day's talks between Washington and Kyiv in Geneva that yielded what the US and Ukraine called a "refined peace framework". Still, the European leaders stressed that work remained to be done. "It was possible to clear up some questions, but we also know that there won't be peace in Ukraine overnight," said German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, adding that the peace plan initially drafted by the US had been "modified in significant parts". He welcomed the "interim result". "The next step must be that Russia must come to the table," Merz said from Angola, where he was attending a summit between African and European Union countries.



CHINA SIMULATES STARLINK
BLACKOUT OVER TAIWAN;
INDIAN EXPERT ANSWERS IF
2,000 DRONES COULD SILENCE
MUSK'S NETWORK?

Diary Times Desk : Chinese researchers have stepped up efforts to develop countermeasures against SpaceX's Starlink constellation, widely viewed as preparation for a possible conflict over Taiwan. As part of this campaign, the researchers recently conducted detailed simulations of electronic warfare attacks against the massive satellite network. Since SpaceX owner Elon Musk provided Starlink to Ukraine in the early days of the war, the satellite network has enabled secure communications, real-time command and control, reconnaissance support, and connectivity for drones and unmanned systems. Beijing, which continues to claim Taiwan as its territory, has watched Starlink's expanding military role with growing alarm. It fears that Taiwan—supported by the United States and regional allies—could leverage the constellation for peacetime surveillance and, in wartime, to guide strikes against Chinese forces. To address this menace, Chinese researchers have been working relentlessly to develop systems that could neutralise it if and when required.

THAI WOMAN'S CREMATION
STOPPED AS KNOCKING ON
COFFIN HEARD, TEMPLE
STAFF SAY

Diary Times Desk : A woman who was believed to be dead and about to be cremated at the Wat Rat Prakhong Tham Buddhist temple in the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand, has been found alive by staff.

The temple's general manager Pairat Soodthoop was "startled" to hear a faint knock from the coffin, he told the Associated Press news agency.

Mr Soodthoop said he asked for the coffin to be opened and saw her "opening her eyes slightly and knocking on the side of the coffin". "She must have been knocking for quite some time," he added.

The brother of the 65-year-old woman said local officials told him his sister had died. However, the temple's manager said the brother did not have a death certificate.

As Mr Soodthoop tried to explain to the brother how to obtain a death certificate, the temple's staff heard a faint knock coming from inside the coffin.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE MUST BE RESPECTED THROUGHOUT EU, TOP COURT TELLS POLAND

Diary Times Desk : Poland has been told to recognise same-sex marriages registered elsewhere in the European Union, in a ruling by the EU's top court.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) said that EU member states were obliged to recognise a same-sex marriage between two EU citizens that had been "lawfully concluded in another member state".

The ruling covers the case of a Polish couple who married in Berlin in 2018. When they decided to move to Poland, authorities refused to accept their marriage certificate as Polish law does not recognise same-sex marriage.

The ECJ made clear that Polish domestic law would not have to be changed to recognise marriages between people of the same sex.

Since the Netherlands recognised same-sex unions in 2001, a number of other EU countries have followed suit, but others, such as Poland, Hungary and Slovakia, have not.

In September, Slovakia's populist-nationalist government changed its constitution to allow only heterosexual couples to adopt children.

In its ruling on Tuesday, the ECJ said that while marriage rules fell within each member state's competence, "countries were required to comply with EU law in exercising that competence".

SAUDI ARABIA RESIDENTS REPORT ALCOHOL BAN EASED FOR SELECT FOREIGNERS

Diary Times Desk : Diplomats and premium visa-holders in Saudi Arabia told AFP that the conservative kingdom has quietly eased restrictions on purchasing alcohol for select foreign residents.

While the government has not made any statements regarding the sale of alcohol in recent days, the sources said non-Muslim individuals with so-called premium resident status are now able to buy booze at the country's sole alcohol shop in Riyadh, which was previously reserved for diplomats.

AFP spoke with four people who said the rules had changed, including two diplomatic sources and two residents with premium visa status.

"I heard about it from friends who tried it. I went there two days ago and it actually worked," one premium visa-holder told AFP on condition of anonymity.

X ORIGIN TAG PUTS MAJOR POLITICAL ACCOUNTS UNDER SCRUTINY FOR OPERATING FROM ABROAD

Diary Times Desk : Dozens of prominent political accounts on X are under scrutiny after the platform's new country of origin feature revealed that many high engagement profiles were operating far from the locations they claimed.

The update, which shows the region from which an account is being used, has ignited a storm across both pro-Trump and anti-Trump circles.

Elon Musk's X, rolled out the feature over the weekend. Users discovered that clicking on an account's join date now opens a tab listing the country or region where the account is located.

The disclosure page also carries a caution that the information may be influenced by recent travel, temporary relocation or the use of Virtual Private Networks.

The revelations have triggered widespread accusations of misleading behaviour.

US OFFICIAL SAYS UKRAINIAN DELEGATION HAS AGREED WITH US ON TERMS OF POTENTIAL PEACE DEAL

Diary Times Desk : A U.S. official told ABC News on Tuesday that a Ukrainian delegation has agreed with the United States on the terms of a potential peace deal.

United States Army Secretary Dan Driscoll held secret talks on Monday with a Russian delegation in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates to follow up on this weekend's talks with Ukraine in Geneva that were intended to move the Ukraine peace process forward, a U.S. official told ABC News.

"The Ukrainians have agreed to the peace deal," the U.S. official said. "There are some minor details to be sorted out but they have agreed to a peace deal."

The previously undisclosed talks with the Russian delegation on Monday follow the talks held in Geneva this past weekend between the U.S. and Ukraine and are the latest indication that the new U.S. initiative to restart the peace process in Ukraine is moving forward.

"Late Monday and throughout Tuesday, Secretary Driscoll and team have been in discussions with the Russian delegation to achieve a lasting peace in Ukraine," Lt. Col. Jeffrey Tolbert, a U.S. Army spokesman, said on Tuesday. "The talks are going well and we remain optimistic."

Secretary Driscoll is closely synchronized with the White House and the U.S. interagency as these talks progress."



WHAT IS CARTEL DE LOS SOLES, WHICH THE US IS LABELLING AS A TERRORIST ORGANISATION?

Diary Times Desk : The United States has designated the Cartel de los Soles (Spanish for Cartel of the Suns) – a group it alleges is headed by Venezuela's president, Nicolás Maduro, and senior figures in his government – as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Labelling an organisation as a terrorist group gives US law enforcement and military agencies broader powers to target and dismantle it.

In recent months, the US has been ramping up pressure on Maduro, saying his government is illegitimate following last year's election, which was widely dismissed as rigged. The designation gives it another way to turn up the heat.

But questions have been raised as to whether Cartel de los Soles actually exists and Venezuela's foreign ministry has "categorically, firmly, and absolutely rejected" the designation, which it describes as a "new and ridiculous lie".

Not surprisingly, Venezuela's interior and justice minister, Diosdado Cabello, has long called it an "invention".

Cabello, who is alleged to be one of the high-ranking members of the cartel, has accused US officials of using it as an excuse to target those they do not like.

"Whenever someone bothers them, they name them as the head of the Cartel de los Soles," he said in August.

SOME INDIAN REFINERS EYE NON-SANCTIONED RUSSIAN OIL AMID STEEP PRICE DISCOUNTS IN 2025

Diary Times Desk : A section of Indian oil refiners is exploring buying non-sanctioned Russian oil after it is being offered at the highest discount in two years, with US sanctions on top producers Rosneft PJSC and Lukoil PJSC upending a lucrative trade.

The price of Ural blend from Russia for Indian refiners has slipped to a discount of as much as \$7 a barrel to dated Brent on a delivered basis.

The offer is for cargo loading in December and arriving in January, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg.

Most Indian refiners have skipped placing orders for Russian crude that would arrive after sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil, which took effect last week, all but ending a trade that flourished after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, as India took advantage of a steady flow of cheaper oil.

"TRUMP'S UKRAINE PEACE PLAN GOES IN RIGHT DIRECTION, BUT...": FRANCE'S MACRON



Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump's peace plan goes in the right direction but there are aspects that need improvement to make it acceptable for Ukraine and Europe, French President Emmanuel Macron told RTL radio on Tuesday.

"It's an initiative that goes in the right direction: peace. However, there are aspects of that plan that deserve to be discussed, negotiated, improved," Macron said. "We want peace, but we don't want a peace that would be a capitulation."

He added that only the Ukrainians could decide what territorial concessions they are ready to make.

"What was put on the table gives us an idea of what would be acceptable for the Russians. Does that mean that it is what must be accepted by the Ukrainians and the Europeans? The answer is no," Macron added.

Macron added Ukraine's first line of defence in case of peace with Russia would be regenerating its own army, and there can be not limit on it.

WHITE HOUSE DEFENDS TRUMP'S H-1B STANCE CALLS IT "NUANCED, COMMON-SENSE"

Diary Times Desk : The White House defended US President Donald Trump's views on the H-1B visas, saying that he has a "nuanced and common-sense opinion on this issue."

While speaking to reporters, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said that Trump would allow importing foreign workers "just at the beginning," but ultimately be replaced by American workers.

"He wants to see if foreign companies are investing trillions of dollars in the United States of America, and they're bringing foreign workers with them to create very niche things like batteries. He wants to see that at the beginning, to get those manufacturing facilities and those factories up and running, but ultimately, the President always wants to see American workers in those jobs," she added.

She noted that there has been "a lot of misunderstanding of the President's position" on the issue.

AN UNUSUAL CALL: XI PUSHES TRUMP ON TAIWAN AS CHINA HAILS EQUAL STATUS UNDER 'G2' FORMAT AS VICTORY

Diary Times Desk : In an unusual move, Chinese President Xi Jinping called US President Donald J. Trump Monday and discussed the situation surrounding Taiwan, and other issues. The call came as tensions are mounting between China and Japan over the future of Taiwan. Trump later announced that he will meet Xi in China next April, with a reciprocal visit by Xi to the US expected later next year.

"I just had a very good telephone call with President Xi of China. We discussed many topics including Ukraine/Russia, fentanyl, soybeans and other farm products, etc. We have done a good, and very important, deal for our great farmers—and it will only get better. Our relationship with China is extremely strong!" Trump said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social after the call with Xi.

TORNADO TEARS THROUGH HARRIS COUNTY, DAMAGING OVER 100 HOMES IN TEXAS

Diary Times Desk : More than 100 homes were damaged Monday afternoon after a tornado swept through Harris County, Texas, CNN reported, citing a local official's statement.

Constable Mark Herman confirmed the destruction in a Facebook post, noting that first responders are actively searching for residents who may be injured or trapped in the affected areas.

The National Weather Service confirmed a tornado struck the county, but has not yet determined the storm's intensity. Severe storms had developed across the Houston area on Monday, fueled by warm temperatures ahead of a cold front.

Meteorologists said an unstable atmosphere combined with wind shear produced supercell thunderstorms, leading to multiple tornado reports, CNN reported.



Herman described the event as a "severe weather event" that caused "widespread and significant damage."

The tornado also hit the Harris County Emergency Services campus, ripping the roof and back wall off a maintenance building, said spokesperson Miranda Sevcik.

AUSTRALIA SENATOR SUSPENDED AFTER BURKA STUNT IN PARLIAMENT

Diary Times Desk : An Australian senator has been suspended for a week after wearing a burka in parliament to push for a ban on the Muslim garment.

Pauline Hanson was condemned by fellow senators - and later formally censured - for the stunt on Monday, with one colleague accusing her of "blatant racism".

The Queensland senator, of the anti-immigration One Nation party, was seeking to introduce a bill that would outlaw 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.

Shortly after other lawmakers blocked her from introducing the bill on Monday, she returned wearing a black burka.

"This is a racist senator, displaying blatant racism," said Mehreen Faruqi, a Muslim Greens senator whom the Federal Court last year found was a victim of racial discrimination by Hanson - a judgement the latter is currently appealing.

"FASCISM EMERGING": CHORUS IN BANGLADESH AFTER 'BAUL' SINGER'S ARREST

Diary Times Desk : A new political turmoil gripped Bangladesh after a prominent 'baul' singer was arrested over charges of blasphemy and making derogatory remarks during a musical performance. The arrest of 'baul' artist Abul Sarkar has sparked protests and condemnation from civil society, especially students and artists, who warned that a new form of 'religious fascism' was emerging in Bangladesh since the ouster of the former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

On Monday, several eminent Bangladeshi civil society figures united to denounce Sarkar's arrest and the subsequent Islamist attacks on fellow mystic minstrels in the past few days. They claimed that religious strife had increased under the current Muhammad Yunus regime.

'Baul' Singer's Arrest

'Baul' singers are mystic minstrels from Bangladesh and West Bengal who use music and poetry to explore spiritual themes and achieve liberation. The 'baul' community is known for their unconventional lifestyle, which is partly influenced by both Hindu Vaishnavism and Islamic Sufism and focuses on the divine within.

AMERICAN CONSUMERS ARE FEELING THE SQUEEZE

Diary Times Desk : A raft of policy moves from the Trump administration, including particularly steep tariffs that could cause prices to rise, and the whipsaw approach being taken, have stoked uncertainty and driven down sentiment to some of the lowest levels on record.

That combination of higher prices, uncertainty and pessimism can be outright noxious as pullbacks in consumer and business spending can have cascading negative effects on the labor market and the broader economy.

The consumers who power the US economy with their spending have been resilient to date – but they’re being increasingly spread thin.

Debt loads are climbing, as are defaults, and indicators of consumer strain are flashing red: For example, an increasing number of people are paying for their groceries in installments.

THE ELECTRIC CAR REVOLUTION IS ON TRACK, SAYS IEA

Diary Times Desk : Global electric vehicle sales are set to rise by more than a fifth to reach 17 million this year, powered by drivers in China, according to the International Energy Agency. In a report Tuesday, the IEA projected that “surging demand” for EVs over the next decade was set “to remake the global auto industry and significantly reduce oil consumption for road transport.”

It expects half of all cars sold globally to be electric by 2035, up from more than one in five this year, provided charging infrastructure keeps pace. The IEA includes battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid vehicles in its definition of EVs.

The agency’s bullish long-term outlook for EVs – based on current government policies – comes just days after the world’s biggest battery EV maker Tesla slashed its prices in major markets to counter declining sales and growing competition from Chinese upstarts and established carmakers.

HOW THIS TINY DEVICE BECAME A SYMBOL FOR THE BACKLASH AGAINST AI

Diary Times Desk : An unassuming circular pendant slightly larger than a quarter has been at the center of a massive uproar. The chief executive behind it isn’t fazed.

Avi Schiffmann, 23, created the Friend pendant to be an artificial intelligence companion for users. He was inspired after realizing that, while he enjoys close friendships, not everyone is so lucky, especially at a time when young men face a loneliness crisis.

The device – which was unveiled in a viral video last year and began shipping to customers this summer – listens to user’s surroundings and conversations, chiming in with advice or general small talk from a smartphone app.

“I think everyone deserves to have a close confidant in their lives that really supports what they’re up to,” Schiffmann told CNN. “I really wanted to bottle up the best relationships I’ve had in my life.”



TRUMP’S ANTI-PRESS OUTBURST HITS DIFFERENTLY WITH A SAUDI PRINCE BY HIS SIDE

Diary Times Desk : President Trump frequently demonstrates his disdain for journalists. He expresses his admiration for authoritarians almost as often. Tuesday showed how intertwined those two instincts really are. Trump repeatedly objected to press questions during an Oval Office photo op with Saudi Arabia’s crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, whose country does not have a free press. He lashed out at an ABC correspondent, Mary Bruce, after she invoked the 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents. The president said his ally, Brendan Carr, the chairman of the FCC, should “look at” punishing ABC over its news coverage. “I think the license should be taken away from ABC because your news is so fake and it’s so wrong,” he asserted. Trump misstated how FCC licenses actually work, but his message was clear: He’d like his government to retaliate the way a dictator would. The president also called Bruce “insubordinate,” a word he rarely ever uses, while sitting next to the son of the Saudi king. “Despite societal reforms, journalists are still being detained and media outlets operate under strict state control,” the organization says.



STREAMING AND TEXTING ON THE MOON: NOKIA AND NASA ARE TAKING 4G INTO SPACE

Diary Times Desk : That’s the shared vision of NASA and Nokia, who have partnered to set up a cellular network on the Moon to help lay the building blocks for long-term human presence on other planets. A SpaceX rocket is due to launch this year – the exact date has yet to be confirmed – carrying a simple 4G network to the Moon. The lander will install the system at the Moon’s south pole and then it will be remotely controlled from Earth.

“The first challenge to getting a network up and running is having a space-qualified cellular equipment that meets the appropriate size, weight, and power requirements, as well as being deployed without a technician,” Walt Engelund, deputy associate administrator for programs at NASA’s Space Technology Mission Directorate, told CNN. No less of a challenge, it will need to operate in the harsh lunar environment of extreme temperatures and radiation.



WHY THE CRYPTO MARKET IS CRASHING

Diary Times Desk :
Even by crypto standards, it's been a rough few weeks.

Investors in digital assets are accustomed to extreme volatility, but a \$1 trillion wipeout over the past six weeks has tested even crypto's diehard believers and alienated many of its newest converts.

Bitcoin, the industry bellwether, has fallen dramatically since early October, when it hit a record high of \$126,000. The world's most popular cryptocurrency dipped below \$81,000 on Friday before recovering slightly over the weekend. On Monday, as the broader stock market rallied, bitcoin topped \$88,000, rising nearly 2% over a 24-hour period. (Crypto markets are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.)

INSIDE THE OLD CHURCH WHERE ONE TRILLION WEBPAGES ARE BEING SAVED

Diary Times Desk :
Just blocks from the Presidio of San Francisco, the national park at the base of the Golden Gate Bridge, stands a gleaming white building, its façade adorned with eight striking gothic columns.
But what was once the home of a Christian Scientist church, is now the holy grail of Internet history — the Internet Archive, a non-profit library run by a group of software engineers and librarians, who for nearly 30 years have been saving the web one page at a time.
Inside the stained-glass-adorned sanctuary, the sounds of church sermons have been replaced by the hum of servers, where the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine preserves web pages.
The Wayback Machine, a tool used by millions every day, has proven critical for academics and journalists searching for historical information on what corporations, people and governments have published online in the past, long after their websites have been updated or changed.

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

Archiving the web is more important and more challenging than ever before.

THE DIRTY SECRET OF AMERICA'S HOLIDAY SHOPPING SEASON

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.



TRUMP'S NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER BRINGS TOGETHER BIG TECH, ACADEMICS AND THE GOVERNMENT ON AI RESEARCH



Diary Times Desk : The White House on Monday launched a new program to allow the Department of Energy's national laboratories to collaborate with tech companies and academics on using AI to further scientific research.

Under the new Genesis Mission, created by executive order, the Department of Energy will develop a new AI platform that uses federal scientific data to train AI models and agents made for scientific research. It underscores President Donald Trump's focus on AI in his second term, coming after he's introduced a sweeping package of initiatives and policy recommendations in July called the AI Action Plan.

The Genesis Mission aims to take the tech and business industries' progress in AI and apply it to scientific research in health, energy, manufacturing and other fields, Department of Energy Secretary Chris Wright said on a call with reporters on Monday. He also said the program would lower energy prices for consumers, a key challenge as investment in AI have increased this year.

The DoE's laboratories have been conducting research in everything from energy to health, applied materials and quantum science for decades. But a new platform under the initiative will let DoE labs, private companies and academic institutions share information more easily. That, in turn, will help researchers apply AI to areas like physics and chemistry.

"The private sector has launched artificial intelligence at huge scale, but with a little bit different focus, on language, on business, on processes, on consumer services," Wright said. "What we're doing here is just pivoting those efforts to focus on scientific discovery, engineering advancements."

The Genesis Mission
A key part of accomplishing that goal, according to Wright, is opening up access to data sets from the DoE's national labs, which include facilities such as the Ames National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory and Lawrence Berkely National Laboratory among many others.

STATE GOVT DEFERRING PRI POLLS FEARING DEFEAT, SAYS BJP

Diary Times Desk :Condemning the Cabinet decision to reorganise the panchayats, the BJP Panchayati Raj Cell today accused the Congress of desperately trying to postpone the polls, fearing defeat.

In a statement issued here today, the BJP has condemned the decision of the Cabinet to reorganise the panchayats. BJP Panchayati Raj Cell state convenor Vinod Thakur said the Himachal Government's decision to reorganise the panchayats at a state-level Cabinet meeting clearly indicates that the government is trying to avoid the upcoming elections. He alleged that this decision exposes the government's fear of defeat and makes clear its intention to postpone the elections.

Thakur said the conflicting stand of the state government had resulted in a Constitutional crisis. "The PRI elections must be held on time before January.

NEW ELECTRICITY BILL 'WILL PUSH POWER SECTOR INTO CRISIS'

Diary Times Desk : The Joint Front of HPSEBL Employees and Engineers has strongly opposed the Draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, released recently by the Ministry of Power for stakeholder feedback. The forum argues that despite two decades since the passage of the Electricity Act, 2003, India's distribution sector continues to suffer severe financial distress, an issue the new Bill fails to address.

According to the forum, the proposed amendments are more damaging than earlier versions. Instead of strengthening the power sector, they claim the Bill opens the door to extensive privatisation, commercialisation and centralised control of electricity distribution. Such a shift, they warn, threatens the financial viability of public utilities, erodes consumer rights, undermines federal principles and endangers the livelihoods of thousands of power sector employees. A key concern is the provision allowing multiple distribution licensees to operate in the same region using a common public network in the name of "competition" and "consumer choice".

CM MANN ANNOUNCES UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER GURU TEG BAHADUR AT ANANDPUR SAHIB

Diary Times Desk : A day after declaring Sri Anandpur Sahib a “holy city” during a special session of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Monday announced the establishment of a “world class university” named after the ninth Sikh Guru, Tegh Bahadur, here. The announcement came during the concluding ceremony of the government-organised Sarv Dharam Sammelan at Guru Ka Bagh, Baba Budha Dal Cantonment, held to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Addressing the gathering from the land founded by the Guru, CM Mann said the proposed university would become a global centre for high-quality education, research, interfaith dialogue and studies inspired by the Guru's message of human rights, peace and sacrifice. “Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur ji laid down his life for defending the right to faith and freedom. Establishing a world-class university in his name is the least we can do to inspire future generations with his teachings,” he said.



CROSS-BORDER SMUGGLING: 5.4 KG HEROIN, CHINESE PISTOL, AMMUNITION RECOVERED

Diary Times Desk : The interrogation of two suspects, rounded up by personnel of the 65 Bn Border Security Force – operating under the Abohar Sector Headquarters – has led to the recovery of 10 packets of heroin. These were reportedly dropped by a drone from the Pakistani side, near the international border at Jalalabad. A case has been registered at the Jalalabad Sadar Police Station, and Inspector Shmila Rani has been assigned to conduct the investigation.

An officer of the Inspector Rank, working as company commander, informed the Sadar Police Station, Jalandabad, that during the patrol on the intervening night of November 23-24, a 50-year-old man identified as Karnail Singh of Chak Bajida and Gurpreet Singh Lovpreet (27), were seen acting suspiciously in Tahliwala area. It later emerged that they were in contact with a drug smuggler over the phone in Pakistan. A case was registered under the NDPS Act.

Sharing details, Fazilka Senior Superintendent of Police Gurmeet Singh said today that Baljinder Singh's house in Chak Tahliwala was raided.

'TIKKI SAMOSA AND A CHAWANNI': WHEN DHARMENDRA GOT NOSTALGIC ABOUT LUDHIANA'S RAIKHY CINEMA

Diary Times Desk : While the country mourns the death of actor Dharmendra, there was a time when veteran actor got emotional while going past an old theatre in Ludhiana in July 2020.

Dharmendra, who was then active on Twitter — now X — had expressed his dismay over the dilapidated condition of Raikhy Cinema, which was once a landmark of Ludhiana.

Sharing a picture of Raikhy Cinema, Dharmendra had then tweeted, “Rikhy cinema, ludhiyana..... unginnat filmen dekhi hain yahaan....ye sannatadekh kar dil udaas ho gaya mera (I have watched innumerable films here, this silence. My heart is saddened watching this deserted place).” Dharmendra also revealed that the last film he watched there was Dilip Kumar-starrer Deedar, adding, “Uss tadap ka apna hi nasha tha...”

YOUR HOROSCOPE
26-11-2025

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.

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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

KURUKSHETRA READY
FOR PM MODI’S VISIT,
CM REVIEWS
ARRANGEMENTS

Diary Times Desk : Kurukshetra is fully geared up to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will visit the holy city on Tuesday to participate in the state-level congregation at Jyotisar on the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will tour the Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra at Jyotisar Tirtha and take part in the ‘Maha Aarti’ at Brahma Sarovar as part of the International Gita Mahotsav. He is also scheduled to unveil the divine conch ‘Panchjanya’ of Lord Krishna at Jyotisar, according to officials.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, accompanied by senior officers, inspected the preparations at Purushottam Pura Baag near Brahma Sarovar and at the Jyotisar programme venue. He reviewed the progress of arrangements and issued instructions on security and other logistical aspects. The Chief Minister also visited the ‘Aarti Sthal’ and key locations to assess readiness on the ground.

TIGHT SECURITY IN
KURUKSHETRA FOR PM’S
VISIT

Diary Times Desk : Kurukshetra district has been placed on high alert in view of PM Narendra Modi’s visit on November 25 for the 350th Martyrdom Day commemoration of Guru Sri Tegh Bahadur and the International Gita Mahotsav.

Over 5,000 police personnel from various districts have been deployed on security duty. The DGP, OP Singh, reviewed the arrangements at the venues today and held a meeting with senior officers to issue necessary instructions. Equipped with modern technology, high-resolution CCTV cameras installed at main roads, intersections, and sensitive points, the police will keep “real-time watch” on every movement.

A ban on the flying of drones and gliders will remain in force across Kurukshetra during Modi’s visit. Instructions regarding this have been issued to all SHOs and officers deployed for Gita Mahotsav duties.

AT KURUKSHETRA, RAJNATH CITES GITA, SAYS NATION VALUES PEACE, BUT
READY FOR BATTLE

Diary Times Desk : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today said that taking inspiration from the Gita, during Operation Sindoor, India gave a befitting reply to terrorists and their supporters. He was addressing the inaugural day of the International Gita Conference at Kurukshetra University.

“Bhagavad Gita offers solutions for every problem in life. It provides mental stability, courage and clarity even in the most challenging situations. To understand the soul of Bharat, one must know the Gita,” he said.

“India gives a message of peace to the world and but the reality is that power and self-confidence is important to maintain peace. Innocent tourists who had gone to Pahalgam were killed after being asked about their religion. The Pahalgam attack not only challenged India’s peacefulness, but terrorists and their supporters were also convinced that India’s decency was its weakness. But they forgot that India is the land of Gita, and possesses compassion as well as the strength to take to the battlefield,” he said.



FARIDKOT COLDEST IN PUNJAB AT
4°C; HISAR IN HARYANA RECORDS
6.3°C

Diary Times Desk : Faridkot remained the coldest place in Punjab on Tuesday with the minimum temperature settling at 4 degrees Celsius, while Hisar recorded the lowest temperature in neighbouring Haryana at 6.3 degrees Celsius, officials said.

Faridkot also recorded the lowest temperature in Punjab on Monday at 4.4 degrees Celsius.

According to data provided by the meteorological centre here, Bathinda in Punjab recorded a low of 5.6 degrees Celsius, followed by Gurdaspur 7 degrees, Amritsar 7.8 degrees, Ludhiana 7.4 degrees, Patiala 8.4 degrees and Ferozepur 6.7 degrees Celsius.

In Haryana, Sirsa recorded 7.8 degrees Celsius. Gurugram recorded a low of 9.8 degrees Celsius, Karnal 8 degrees, Ambala 10.3 degrees, Rohtak 8.2 degrees and Bhiwani 8.5 degrees Celsius. Chandigarh, the common capital of Punjab and Haryana, recorded a minimum temperature of 7.9 degrees Celsius.

PROTECTED TAG FOR 5
‘CHHATRIS’ TO ENRICH REWARI’S
IDENTITY

Diary Times Desk : The state government’s decision to bring the group of five historic ‘chhatris’ (resting places) under official protection will, according to heritage enthusiasts, not only pave the way for their long-awaited restoration but also enhance the beauty of Rewari city while adding it more prominently to visitors’ destination lists.

Local residents had been consistently demanding their preservation. Their notification as protected monuments marks a significant step towards safeguarding this valuable heritage.

The Heritage and Tourism Department, Haryana, has recently declared the group of five ‘chhatris’ located in Puran Singh Bagh, opposite the Rezang La Memorial on the Rewari-Gurugram road, a protected monument. “Historically, all five ‘chhatris’ served as resting places for travellers who paused here before continuing their journeys.

KURUKSHETRA READY FOR PM MODI’S VISIT, CM REVIEWS ARRANGEMENTS



Diary Times Desk : Kurukshetra is fully geared up to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who will visit the holy city on Tuesday to participate in the state-level congregation at Jyotisar on the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

During his visit, the Prime Minister will tour the Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra at Jyotisar Tirtha and take part in the ‘Maha Aarti’ at Brahma Sarovar as part of the International Gita Mahotsav. He is also scheduled to unveil the divine conch ‘Panchjanya’ of Lord Krishna at Jyotisar, according to officials.

New X feature exposes foreign pro-MAGA accounts

A new X feature over the weekend revealed that several pro-Trump accounts with large followings are not US-based, despite content and some bios suggesting otherwise. On X account profiles, clicking on an account's date of creation reveals the country or region where the account is based. Users can toggle a privacy button to just show a region instead of a specific country. CNN could not independently verify the locations of these accounts. The revelation not only underscores how many foreign actors use social media to try to shape American society, it also shows how those kinds of influence attempts could grow in the future — especially with strong financial incentives for accounts to try to rack up user engagement. X's head of product, Nikita Bier, posted that the change "is an important first step to securing the integrity of the global town square. We plan to provide many more ways for users to verify the authenticity of the content they see on X." Almost immediately, users began to flag accounts, many of them supporting President Donald Trump and his policies, not based in the United States.



Hadas Gold
And it's unclear that advertisers are going to be willing to pay for the attention of AI agents," Shapiro said. "For the companies, there's a real interest emerging in being able to sort out what's real from what's not, and for users and doing the same."

MAGA Nation, an account that has nearly 400,000 followers, boasts it's "America first" and a "Patriot Voice for We The People." Its feed is filled with pro-Trump news, commentary and posts to farm engagement, like polls. But its X account information says it's based in Eastern Europe (non-EU).

A user named "America First," with a photo of White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt, says it is "Promoting Good Resisting Evil!!" in its bio. "Good morning X! God Bless America!" the account posted on November 17. But the account, which has more than 67,000 followers, is based out of Bangladesh. Many of these accounts share similar features: generic pro-America imagery and photos of Trump, his family or members of his administration. The posts are about news of the day, recycled clips from other media outlets and questions or polls to encourage responses — engagement that can lead to higher payouts from X.

Trump himself has reposted several of these accounts on his Truth Social platform. On Sunday, he reposted from an account called "Commentary Donald J. Trump" asking: "Would you support the idea of foreign-born citizens be barred from running for office? Yes or no" atop a photo of Minnesota Rep. Ilhan Omar and Minnesota State Senator Omar Fateh. But the account itself is based in Africa.

Bier warned that the feature is not foolproof, as travel, as well as VPNs, could affect where the accounts say they are based.

But experts say it's not surprising that so many accounts with US political content, some with huge followings, appear to be based outside of the United States.

"We have a history of foreign people trying to use social media for foreign influence ... and there are multiple reasons why you might expect foreign actors to want to intervene in politics, both political and economic reasons," Joshua Tucker, a professor at Wilf Department of Politics at New York University, told CNN.

In the 2016 presidential election, for example, the Russian government backed efforts to influence political discourse online through fake personas and accounts. "I think X and many other companies have an existential problem that's coming, which is it's going to become increasingly hard to figure out what is real human and what is AI agents.

She 'wants to die there.'

THE WOMEN FORCED TO SCAM AND THE FAMILIES LEFT BEHIND



Teele Rebane
Casie said her company was one of dozens operating out of the same building — ranging from romance, investment and loan scams to other crimes like drug and wildlife trafficking.

An hour north of the city, where urban sprawl gives way to hills, a boy in a Batman shirt waits by the front of his family's small convenience store. Eagerly, he accompanies us past the candy, snacks and lottery tickets, to the simple living space at the rear. He tells us his name, that he is three years old, and he misses his mom. The boy's aunt Rose and his grandparents have been looking after him and his younger brother since April, when their mother, Lily, took what she thought was a customer service job in Taiwan. Instead, Lily became one of hundreds of thousands of people who have been trafficked to work in the heart of Asia's notorious scam industry. For months, Lily says she has been held captive and tortured in Myanmar — details Rose keeps from the rest of the family to protect them from further heartache.



In the few messages Lily has sent Rose, she says "she wants to die there," Rose told CNN. Rose's reply is always the same: "Please don't do that...your kid always asks me when you will go home."

Experts say traffickers are increasingly targeting women to fill roles in their expanding scam operations — using their faces and voices for online romance schemes. In some cases, the women are forced into sex work to serve the men inside compounds that function like self-contained cities.

In the Philippines, where stable, well-paid jobs are scarce, many women take higher-earning roles abroad and send money home to pay for their children's education, buy homes or support their parents. But when criminal networks exploit this hope and desperation, families like Lily's are robbed of mothers, sisters, daughters — and breadwinners. In a months-long investigation, CNN spoke to several women who

described horrifying conditions inside the compounds, where they were forced to con victims — ordinary people from America to Australia — in romance scams, investment schemes and more. Women working inside — who hail not just from Asia, but also from Africa and Europe — told CNN they were made to memorize scripts and use AI face and voice filters to lure victims. Those failing to comply are punished with violence and sexual abuse, they said. Many of the scam compounds operating across Southeast Asia are run by Chinese crime syndicates. Rose says trafficked women like her sister "were promised a good life and a good salary... but when they go there it's really the opposite." The single mother-of-four was already well-versed in working abroad to support her young family, having previously been employed as a sales assistant in Dubai. So, when she saw a job for a customer service representative in Hong Kong, advertised by another Filipina on Facebook in January, she didn't hesitate to pack her bags. The job in Hong Kong was a fake. Instead, Casie was trafficked to Cambodia and forced to run extortion scams. Taking a deep breath, Casie recited to CNN the script she was forced to read: "Hi, good day. INFA

Despite President Donald Trump's claims about gas prices

TRUMP'S GAS PRICE DISCOUNT HAS DISAPPEARED



Matt Egan
"We're basically in the same neighborhood as last year. It's virtually the same price," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "Policy hasn't really done anything."

President Donald Trump and his economic team often respond to concerns about the affordability crisis by touting how much cheaper gasoline is than under his predecessor.

For the vast majority of 2025, this was a legitimate bragging point for the White House.

Until now.

For the first time since the start of Trump's second term, the discount between this year's prices and last year's has effectively disappeared.

The national average for regular gas stood at \$3.055 on Tuesday, almost exactly the same as \$3.056 a year ago under former President Joe Biden, according to AAA.

In fact, Tuesday breaks an eight-day streak where the national average was up on a year-over-year basis, according to AAA data shared with CNN.

It's a big shift from earlier this year, when gas was 30, 40 and even 50 cents cheaper than the same point in 2024. Although prices at the pump are still relatively low and far from their historic peak in 2022, this trend contradicts a key Trump talking point and undermines one

of his strongest arguments on affordability. During a major economic policy speech in Miami on November 6, Trump claimed, "Gasoline prices have plummeted to the lowest in two decades."

In reality, gas prices were averaging \$3.08 a gallon — nowhere near a multi-decade low and just a few pennies cheaper than under Biden the year before. During an interview on Fox News that aired last Friday, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent argued, "Oil and gasoline prices are down substantially under President Trump — and that is really the key to affordability." Yet gas prices were three cents higher on a year-over-year basis that day.

Affordability disconnect Americans say there is a disconnect between Trump's rhetoric on prices and the reality they are experiencing.

According to a CBS News poll, 60% of Americans say Trump makes things sound better than they really are when it comes to prices and inflation. Just 27% say Trump makes thing sound about as they really are, while 13% say he makes them sound worse. It's one thing to embellish unclear or hard-to-quantify numbers like

how many trillions of dollars of foreign investment US officials have secured. It's another matter altogether to tell people groceries are getting cheaper, or prices are plunging at the gas pump, when neither is true. Gas prices are a highly visible way that many Americans view the cost of living. The spike to \$5 per gallon after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022 caused an uproar and a political nightmare for the Biden administration.

Where gas is cheaper than last year

Thankfully, drivers in some states are saving a bit on gas prices relative to last year going into the driving-heavy Thanksgiving weekend.. Gas prices are significantly cheaper year-over-year in Colorado (24 cents), Wyoming (19 cents), Hawaii (12 cents), Wisconsin (12 cents), Maryland (9 cents) and North Dakota (9 cents), according to AAA.

However, average gas prices are also up significantly in some states, including Oregon (27 cents), Alaska (26 cents), Washington (20 cents), California (16 cents), Idaho (16 cents), Arizona (14 cents), Michigan (9 cents) and Nevada (9 cents).

None of this is to say gas is expensive under Trump. It's not.

In fact, GasBuddy projects the average national price for gas on Thanksgiving will be \$3.02 — tied for the lowest Thanksgiving price since the pandemic sent prices crashing in 2020. But the year it's tied with is 2024, so it's not exactly something for the Trump administration to boast about.

WHIMSICAL ROMANCE: A GUIDE TO HERMÈS QUELLE IDOLE

Diary Times Desk : Creative freedom and innovation have always infused Hermès with a unique vitality and dynamism. As a powerhouse in the luxury handbag landscape, Hermès not only upholds exquisite craftsmanship but also imbues every detail with poetry and ingenuity. This aesthetic finds vivid expression in the lively brushstrokes of its silk scarves, the boundless imagination of its bag designs, and its fantastical window displays that unlock worlds of wonder. The Quelle Idole is the epitome of this unbridled creativity. Its charmingly naive and romantic personified form is full of whimsy and delight, making it unforgettable. This singular design has not only won the favour of the fashion world but has also consistently achieved high prices at auction in recent years, becoming a modern classic highly sought after by collectors.

The inspiration and history of Hermès Quelle Idole

The allure of the Quelle Idole lies perhaps in its masterful fusion of Hermès craftsmanship and whimsical wonder. Skilled artisans transform the petite bag into a doll's face. Delicate stitching traces arched brows, beneath which a pair of lively eyes glance upward with a mischievous sparkle. The turn-lock becomes a delicate nose, and one corner of the mouth lifts gently, capturing a playful smile. Movable hands and forward-facing feet create an adorable, seated posture. Rendered in fine leather with delicate texture, the piece is brimming with childish delight.

This joyful design creates a fascinating contrast with the elegance embodied by the classic Kelly bag, whose prototype can be traced back to the 'Sac à Dépêches' briefcase launched in the 1930s. Robert Dumas, son-in-law of Émile Hermès, adapted it from the 'Haut à Courroies', which was originally designed to carry saddles and boots, and reimagined it in smaller proportions for women. Its crisp trapezoidal silhouette, signature top handle, metal clasp, and the four studs on the base that allow it to stand upright all convey an air of understated, assured sophistication. Two decades later, in 1956, Princess Grace of Monaco was photographed using her 'Sac à Dépêches' to shield her pregnancy, thus giving the bag its famous name.

Originally conceived by Robert Dumas, the fourth-generation head of the company, the Kelly bag was later reimagined by his son, Jean-Louis Dumas, who is celebrated for his in-flight encounter with Jane Birkin that inspired the Birkin bag. With irrepressible creativity, he transformed his father's classic Kelly into the charming and spirited Quelle Idole, breathing new energy into the house's heritage.

**JEAN PAUL GAULTIER: HOW FASHION'S 'ENFANT TERRIBLE' REDEFINED HERMÈS HANDBAGS**

Diary Times Desk : Jean Paul Gaultier's tenure as Creative Director of Hermès (2003–2010) was a celebrated chapter of creative brilliance. While his haute couture-inspired ready-to-wear captivated the fashion world, his most enduring influence perhaps lies in the realm of leather goods, especially handbags. His aesthetic vision permeated the brand's style universe. Here, we decode the most iconic Hermès bags he designed or reimagined.

So Black Collection

Arguably Jean Paul Gaultier's most notable contribution to the Hermès bag lexicon, the So Black series was launched for Fall /Winter 2010, marking the end of his tenure at the brand. This series distinguished itself by coating all metal hardware, such as buckles, locks, and keys, on classic models in black PVD, resulting in a seamless, monochromatic aesthetic. The all black, mysterious, and disruptive collection quickly gained legendary status among collectors. It represented a bold departure from the traditional gold or palladium hardware, demonstrating that luxury could be powerful and modern in understated matte black. This focus shifted attention to the bag's silhouette, structure, and texture of the leather.

Shadow Birkin

The innovative Shadow Birkin deconstructed the classic by flattening and geometrizing Birkin's iconic silhouette. It removed the physical hardware, instead embossing a trompe-l'œil of the lock and clochette directly onto the leather. Futuristic in spirit, it reads as the Birkin's 'shadow' or 'architectural blueprint'. This deconstruction of a classic ushers in a more avant-garde, experimental, and subtly humorous design language for Hermès.

Kelly Pochette

Debating on the runway in 2004, the Kelly Pochette is an extension of the classic Kelly bag. Its compact size was a quiet statement in an era of large bags. Gaultier recognized its potential, frequently featuring it in his runway shows and styling it with modern, edgy, even rock-inspired looks. This broke Kelly's potentially staid image, showcasing its versatility and chic appeal.

So Kelly

Injecting his signature structuralist aesthetic, Gaultier radically reworked the Kelly bag's details in an unprecedented way. The So Kelly stretches the bag's body into an oversized, bowling bag-like bucket silhouette while retaining the classic turn-lock and double straps. Debating for Fall/Winter 2008, this subversive design caused an immediate sensation.



BAYERN MUNICH HONORARY PRESIDENT HITS OUT AT BARCELONA’S ECONOMIC SITUATION: ‘ABSURD AND

INTOLERABLE’

Diary Times Desk : Joan Laporta’s current term at Barcelona has been largely aimed at lifting the club from the financial mess they were in at the time of his arrival. After all, the club were sinking into debt when he took over as the president. Through well-negotiated salary revisions, player sales and economic levers, Laporta brought Barcelona back to a competitive level on the field and close to the financial 1:1 rule, although they still have not hit the aforementioned balance yet.

The club’s situation and means of getting out of it, however, have generated significant debate in recent times. While some admire Laporta’s means of securing stability, others do not see his idea of leveraging future income for present funding to be a good idea. In a recent interview, the honorary president of Bayern Munich, Uli Hoeness, lashed out at Barcelona for their economic situation and made it clear that they would have faced far bigger repercussions had they been in any other league.

THE INSIDE STORY OF LIONEL MESSI’S FAILED BARCELONA RETURN IN 2023 – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Ever since Lionel Messi left FC Barcelona in a heartbreaking manner back in 2021, reports of a return to the Catalan club have never been far away.

In fact, a move appeared to be very much on the cards when the Argentine megastar’s contract with PSG expired in 2023.

Talks were held, options explored, but in the end, Messi ended up signing for Inter Miami instead.

Now, a report from SPORT has shed light on why the eight-time Ballon d’Or winner’s return did not materialise in 2023.

Talks between Messi and Xavi It all started in January 2023, when Xavi Hernandez received an unexpected call from Messi. The Argentina captain told the then-Barcelona manager that he had made a final decision and wanted to return.

Messi said he felt excited, ready to come back two years after leaving for PSG and convinced that his last European chapter should be played at the club of his life.

RAPHINHA OPENS UP ON BALLON D’OR DISAPPOINTMENT AHEAD OF CHELSEA VS BARCELONA – ‘I DESERVED MUCH MORE’

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona lock horns with Chelsea tonight in the UEFA Champions League, knowing that a defeat could further damage their chances of securing a top-eight finish in the league phase.

The Blaugrana have already dropped points in two games, first losing to PSG and then being held to a draw by Club Brugge, leaving them with very little margin for error.

The good news is that the Catalans have recovered one of their most important players, Raphinha, from injury, with the Brazilian making his comeback against Athletic Club as a late substitute.

On his return to England, where he played for Leeds United in the past, Raphinha accompanied Barça manager Hansi Flick for the pre-match press conference late last evening.

And the Brazilian international could not hide his joy at being able to play again after nearly two months out.



BUNDESLIGA SUPERSTAR ADDRESSES BARCELONA INTEREST – ‘UNLIKELY THAT ANYTHING WILL CHANGE’

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona are all set to enter the market next summer for a top centre-forward to replace Robert Lewandowski, whose contract expires at the end of the season.

Despite the 37-year-old veteran’s fine form in recent weeks, it appears Barça will not be renewing his contract, and will instead sign a new player to lead the team’s attack.

Bayern Munich and England superstar Harry Kane, to that end, has emerged as a target for the La Liga champions, with his €65 million release clause for next summer seen as viable.

Kane breaks silence on future Speaking ahead of the blockbuster Champions League match between Arsenal and Bayern Munich, Kane addressed his future and the interest from Barcelona.

“I haven’t been in contact with anyone, nor has anyone been in contact with me.

I feel very comfortable in the current situation, and we haven’t discussed anything with Bayern about the future yet,” Kane told BILD (n/t SPORT).



FLICK TALKS RAPHINHA, LEWANDOWSKI, PEDRI, RASHFORD, ERIC GARCIA AHEAD OF CHELSEA VS BARCELONA

Diary Times Desk : Later tonight, FC Barcelona lock horns with Premier League giants Chelsea in one of the most high-profile league-phase matches of the 2025/26 UEFA Champions League.

It is a crucial game for the Blaugrana in the context of securing a top-eight spot, considering their previous European encounter ended in a high-scoring draw against Club Brugge, while they also lost to PSG early in the competition.

Having landed in London last night, Barcelona manager Hansi Flick spoke to the media in his pre-match press conference, discussing various topics, including the fitness of key winger Raphinha.

Kicking things off, the German tactician touched on how he planned to approach the game against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge, saying:

“We always adapt to the opponent. We know how we want to play, but we also know what needs to be done. It’s always different, depending on the opponent.”

Praising the way Enzo Maresca has built this Chelsea team, he added: “Chelsea is one of the best teams in the world. They’ve undergone a major transformation, have a wealth of talent, and a great manager who has instilled a strong identity in them.

AJAX CONSIDERING HIRING FORMER BARCELONA EXECUTIVE AS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

Diary Times Desk : It has been a few years since the departure of Jordi Cruyff, who played a key role for Barcelona during the time Xavi Hernandez was the coach.

Cruyff played an integral part in helping Barcelona rebuild using homegrown talent while also bringing in gems like Raphinha and Jules Kounde.

And now, two years after his departure from Barcelona, Cruyff could finally make a return to European management.

Ajax shortlist Cruyff for technical director role According to Dutch media, as cited by Mundo Deportivo, Ajax are currently negotiating with Cruyff for the vacant technical director position. The historic Amsterdam club are seeking a rapid management overhaul to address its current decline in the Eredivisie.