

NEWS IN BRIEF

YOUTH CONGRESS LEADER DEMANDS RAHUL MAMKOOTATHIL'S EXPULSION, CRITICISES PARTY'S HANDLING OF SEXUAL ASSAULT CLAIMS

Diary Times Desk : Youth Congress state general secretary Sajana B Sajan has demanded the ouster of discredited MLA Rahul Mamkootathil from the primary membership of Congress party. Responding to CPM allegations, she said that this is not the time for ordinary Congress workers to defend Rahul.

"Rahul Mamkootathil is not the problem, his mindset is the real issue," Sajana, who is also a KPCC member, said. "Who wants to protect him now? Though the accused has the protection of any top leader, if the party takes a disciplinary action, protection should be provided only after realising the ground reality.

Even after the details of sexual assaults were known through the media, the claims by the Congress leadership that the victims did not file a complaint is equivalent to questioning the dignity of victims," she said.

She also reminded the party leadership that Rahul was asked to resign from the post of Youth Congress state president by the national leadership of Youth Congress.

NEED TO FINALISE MEMORANDUM OF PROCEDURE FOR JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS SCBA PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Supreme Court Bar Association president and senior advocate Vikas Singh on Wednesday stressed the need to finalise the Memorandum of Procedure for judicial appointments.

He said this will ensure that judges of fine calibre comes to the higher courts and that there is credibility in the process.

Memorandum of Procedure is the list of rules and procedures for appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Speaking at a Constitution Day celebration organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), Singh highlighted deficiencies in judicial infrastructure, particularly in lower courts.

PAK'S URI STRIKE



and ensured zero civilian casualties - upholding the highest standards of Protection & Security," it added.

The security personnel were awarded the Director General's Disc to recognise their courage and commitment to the nation.

Among the civilians rescued by the CISF personnel were staff of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and their family members.

"Even as rounds landed dangerously close to the premises, the personnel continued to reinforce bunkers, maintain communication lines through POLNET and satellite systems, and provide emergency assistance," the CISF said.

Besides Commanding Officer Ravi Yadav, Deputy Commandant Manohar Singh, Assistant Commandant Subhash Kumar, Inspector Deepak Kumar Jha, Sub-Inspectors Anil Kumar and Deepak Kumar, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Rajeev Kumar and Sukhdev Singh and Head Constables Manoj Kumar Sharma, Ram Lal and Gurjit Singh received the honour. Constables Sushil V Kamble, Raziq Rafique, Ravindra Wankhede, Trivedi Chakma, Sohan Lal, Mufeed Ahmad, Mahesh Kumar and Sandenaboina Raju were also given the disc, officials said.

OP SINDOOR: HOW 19 BRAVEHEARTS SAVED 250 CIVILIANS DURING PAK'S URI STRIKE

Diary Times Desk : During the India-Pakistan conflict during Operation Sindoor, India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack, shells from across the border had targeted hydroelectric projects at Uri in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla. Nineteen personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force, tasked with protecting airports and key infrastructure, risked their lives to evacuate 250 civilians during this attack on a project located near the Line of Control. These 19 CISF personnel were felicitated yesterday.

"Amid intense cross-border shelling in May 2025, CISF teams at Uri Hydro Electric Projects displayed extraordinary courage, safeguarding vital national assets and evacuating 250 civilians to safety despite the high risk to their own lives," CISF said in a statement.

"Led by Commandant Ravi Yadav, with the officers and personnel carried out real-time threat analysis, reinforced bunkers, maintained critical communications, neutralised hostile drones

CABINET APPROVES ₹2,781 CR RAILWAY PROJECTS FOR GUJARAT, MAHARASHTRA

Diary Times Desk : The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved two major railway projects worth ₹2,781 crore in Gujarat and Maharashtra, aimed at easing congestion, improving services and boosting regional connectivity.

What the projects include

- Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)-Kanalus doubling of 141 km
- Badlapur-Karjat 3rd and 4th line covering 32 km

Together, the projects will add 224 km to the Indian Railways network, benefiting nearly 585 villages with a combined population of about 3.2 million. Pilgrimage and suburban gains

The doubling of the Kanal-us-Okha section will strengthen access to the Dwarakadhish temple and support development across the Saurashtra region.

The Badlapur-Karjat stretch—part of the Mumbai suburban network—will get two new lines to ease pressure on the fast-growing suburban system and improve future passenger movement. The route is also critical for transporting coal, salt, containers, cement and petroleum products. With higher capacity, Railways expects to handle up to 18 million tonnes more freight annually.

Cabinet approves Pune Metro Line 4 and 4A

- Line 4 (Kharadi-Hadapsar-Swargate-Khadakwasla)
- Line 4A (Nal Stop-Warje-Manik Bag)



IN EYE OF PROBE INTO MAOIST HIDMA POSTERS & CHILLI SPRAY AT AQI PROTEST, A STUDENT BODY CALLED BSCEM



Diary Times Desk : The Bhagat Singh Chhatra Ekta Manch (BSCEM), a lesser known outfit which identifies as a students' rights group, now finds itself at the centre of the Delhi Police probe into 'Naxal links' to the chaos that erupted during a protest against rising air pollution levels here Sunday. The protesters allegedly attacked police personnel with chilli spray and raised slogans in support of slain Maoist commander Madvi Hidma.

Police sources said investigators, after the arrests of 22 people, narrowed down on two groups: BSCEM, and Himkhand, which identifies as an environmental advocacy group. "Several BSCEM members were seen raising pro-Hidma slogans. Investigators are probing their networks and other groups they are affiliated with," said a senior police officer.

On 19 November, BSCEM on its Instagram—with more than 3,000 followers—put up a post calling for a protest for clean air. The same day, another post was put up with a "red salute" for Hidma and terming the encounter in which the Maoist commander was killed "fake".

The post accuses "Brahminical Hindutva Fascists Forces backed by BJP" of intensifying attacks on tribals.

On 14 November, a BSCEM representative was part of the press conference organised at the Press Club of India here on the movement to demand clean air. Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan was also part of this press conference.

AADHAAR BODY DEACTIVATES OVER 2 CRORE CARDS OF DEAD INDIVIDUALS



Diary Times Desk : The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has deactivated more than two crore Aadhaar numbers belonging to dead individuals, marking one of the largest clean-up exercises of the national identity database. According to a Ministry of Electronics & IT press release, this step aims to keep Aadhaar records accurate and prevent identity misuse.

Aadhaar body said it has received information on dead persons from the Registrar General of India, state governments, Union Territories, the Public Distribution System, and the National Social Assistance Program. The authority is also planning to work with banks and other institutions to share verified death data in the future. Officials explained that an Aadhaar number is never given to another person, so deactivation after death is necessary to stop fraud or wrongful use of welfare benefits.

The authority introduced a new online service earlier this year to make the process easier for families. The "Reporting of death of a family member" feature is now active on the myAadhaar portal for 25 states and Union Territories that use the Civil Registration System. Aadhaar body noted that the remaining states and UTs will also be connected to this system soon.

Under the process, a family member logs in to the portal, verifies their identity, and enters the dead person's Aadhaar number, Death Registration Number, and basic details. The Aadhaar body then checks the information before taking action on deactivation.

The authority is urging Aadhaar holders across the country to report the deaths of their family members on the myAadhaar portal once they receive the death certificate. Aadhaar body said timely reporting will help avoid the misuse of government subsidies and services that require Aadhaar authentication.

RISING AIR POLLUTION

SCHOOLS ACROSS INDIA PREPARE FOR HOLIDAYS

AMID RISING AIR POLLUTION AND CYCLONE SENYAR THREAT



Diary Times Desk : Several schools across the country may announce holidays for students amid the rising AQI and possible rain and water logging due to Cyclone Senyar. While many others have already declared vacations because of winter.

Schools in the national capital are functioning with only 50 per cent staff through hybrid format due to severe air pollution. In Uttar Pradesh, schools will remain close for 12 days of winter vacation from December 20-31, 2025. While, PM Shri schools will have a vacation from December 23, 2025 to January 1, 2026.

School Education Department of Jammu and Kashmir has announced winter vacations for all schools in the winter zone of Jammu, as well as government and recognised private schools up to the higher secondary level in the Kashmir division. Students in Pre-primary (Balvatika) Classes will have their vacations from November 26, until February 28, 2026. For Classes 1 to 8, vacations will begin on December 1 and end on February 28, 2026. Students from Classes 9 to 12 will have holidays from December 11 to February 22, 2026. Schools up to Class 8 are scheduled to reopen on March 1 next year, while higher classes will resume a week earlier, on February 22.

State government in several parts of the country may declare school holidays in the coming days as parts of east and south India may expect heavy rainfall and water logging due to Cyclone Senyar. In Tamil Nadu, district administrations Tirunelveli, and Thoothukudi may announce school closure after monitoring the situation.

VIOLENT STUDENT PROTEST OVER BASIC AMENITIES ROCKS VIT BHOPAL CAMPUS, VEHICLES TORCHED



Diary Times Desk : Massive student unrest broke out at VIT Bhopal University in Sehore district, Madhya Pradesh, on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, forcing the university to declare holidays till November 30, an official source told TNIE on Wednesday. Around 4,000 students, frustrated over inadequate campus facilities—particularly poor drinking water, substandard food, and unhygienic toilets—staged a violent protest late Tuesday night at the Ashta-area campus.

Initial attempts by university security to control the situation failed, and videos showing some first-year students being assaulted by security staff outside a boys' hostel further fueled the unrest. Students also alleged a rise in suspected jaundice cases due to non-potable water, with some even claiming deaths, though university officials denied any fatalities.

The protests escalated rapidly, with students damaging or setting fire to six to seven vehicles, including motorcycles, cars, and a university bus. Reports also indicated vandalism at the vice chancellor's residence.



"CHENNAI GOT 220,000 H-1B VISAS": US ECONOMIST'S
"FRAUD" ALLEGATION



Diary Times Desk : America's H-1B visa programme is once again in hot water after an economist accused the system of fraud, alleging that the Chennai district in India obtained more than twice the total number of visas allowed nationwide. Economist Dave Brat, a former US Representative, has claimed that while the national cap for H-1B visas is 85,000, Chennai received 220,000 visas, which is 2.5 times the cap. Speaking on a podcast, Brat claimed that the H-1B system had been "captured by industrial-scale fraud", with the visa allocations exceeding the statutory limits. Brat pointed out that 71 per cent of H-1B visas come from India, while only 12 per cent come from China, the second-largest beneficiary group of the programme. "That tells you something's going on right there. Then there's a cap of only 85,000 H-1B visas, but somehow one district in India, the Madras (Chennai) district, got 220,000.

BHAGWAT: MUST INSPIRE
WORLD TO LIVE IN PEACE &
HAPPINESS

Diary Times Desk : Reflecting on the fulfilment of a Ram temple dream in Ayodhya through "tireless efforts and countless sacrifices", RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Tuesday called upon the countrymen to unite in building an India that embodies supreme glory, spreads happiness and peace, and delivers the fruits of development. "This is what the world expects from us and fulfilling it is our bounden duty," the RSS chief said. Joining PM Narendra Modi in hoisting the Dharm Dhwaja on the spire of the temple, Bhagwat called it the flag of 'Ramrajya', which once flew in Ayodhya, he said it has risen again to its rightful pinnacle. "We have witnessed this in our own lifetime. This flag is a symbol of dharma. Just as it took time to raise it to its height, it took decades to accomplish this temple. Besides the five centuries of longing, the last 30 years involved tireless efforts.

VOLCANIC ASH MISSED INDIA, BUT POLLUTION RISKS HAVEN'T:
DOCTORS WARN, SHARE TIPS

Diary Times Desk : When news broke that volcanic ash from Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi eruption had entered Indian airspace, especially over Delhi NCR, it sparked understandable concern in a city already battling hazardous air pollution levels. But atmospheric scientists and meteorological agencies have clarified that while the ash plume did drift at high altitudes across India, it never descended to ground-level concentrations capable of harming people directly. This distinction is crucial. Volcanic ash is not toxic smoke but a fine mixture of rock, minerals and acidic gases, often small enough to behave like PM2.5 particles. If it were present at significant concentrations near the ground, the health impact could be severe. But in India's case, the ash remained dispersed in upper air layers and did not interact with the air Delhi residents breathe.

However, doctors caution that the existing air pollution crisis in Delhi NCR is already severe enough to trigger exactly the same respiratory, skin and eye symptoms commonly associated with volcanic ash exposure.

NO RESPITE IN SIGHT FOR DELHI POLLUTION, CHIEF JUSTICE
OF INDIA WEIGHS IN

Diary Times Desk : The pollution level in Delhi and National Capital Region set to continue for at least another week, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has expressed serious concern on the matter. The pollution in the national capital has reached such a level that even going out for a morning walk has become difficult, he said today. The met office has said that the pollution crisis is likely to continue for at least another week. No rainfall is expected within this time, said Dr. Naresh Kumar, senior scientist of the India Meteorological Department. Justice Kant said he took a 55-minute walk on Tuesday and felt discomfort for the rest of the morning. "I had breathing difficulties," he said when senior lawyer Rakesh Dwivedi sought exemption from the hearing, citing ill health. When the Chief Justice asked if this was due to Delhi's weather, Dwivedi agreed. Senior advocate Kapil Sibal also said he has stopped his walks due to pollution.

The Air Quality Index or AQI remains between 300-350 even in the evening, Sibal said. Dwivedi requested the court to start virtual hearings, which Sibal also supported.



PAN MASALA BARON'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW
DIES BY SUICIDE AT SOUTH DELHI HOME

Diary Times Desk : The daughter-in-law of Pan Masala baron Kamal Kishor Chaurasia, the man behind Kamla Pasand and Rajshree brands, has died, allegedly by suicide, at the family's home in south Delhi's posh Vasant Vihar.

Deepti Chaurasia (40), who was married to Kamal Kishor's son Arpit, was found dead at the family's plush home yesterday at noon. According to sources, she hanged herself using a dupatta.

A note found in her room states that she does not blame anyone, according to reports. Reports quote the note as saying, "If there is no love and trust in a relationship, what is the point of life?" Cops suspect family issues pushed Deepti to the edge, and a detailed probe is on.

EXPELLED AIADMK LEADER KA
SENGOTTAIYAN MEETS VIJAY, FUELS TALK
OF TVK SWITCH

Diary Times Desk : Expelled AIADMK strongman KA Sengottaiyan met Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) founder and actor Vijay in Chennai today, intensifying speculation that the expelled nine-time MLA may soon join the fledgling party. The meeting comes weeks after Sengottaiyan publicly pushed for the return of expelled leaders VK Sasikala, O Panneerselvam and TTV Dinakaran to the AIADMK, arguing that their comeback was essential to revive the party, which has suffered three successive electoral defeats since Jayalalithaa's death.

Sengottaiyan, a veteran who has been with the AIADMK since MG Ramachandran founded the party, is widely regarded as one of the key strategists who helped shape J Jayalalithaa's statewide campaigns. He played a crucial backroom role in planning her tours, stitching together ground-level mobilisation that contributed significantly to the party's electoral machinery.

Earlier today, the senior leader resigned as MLA, triggering speculation about his next political move. He said, "Please wait for a day" for questions on switching to TVK. Though AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami initially removed him only from party posts, Sengottaiyan was expelled after he met Sasikala and OPS during Thevar Jayanthi, in defiance of the party line.

US EMBASSY BACKS INDIA'S
EFFORTS TO BRING 26/11
MUMBAI ATTACKERS TO
JUSTICE

Diary Times Desk : Paying tribute to the victims of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks and expressing solidarity with the survivors and families, the US Embassy in India on Wednesday backed India's efforts in ensuring that those responsible for the heinous attack are brought to justice.

In the statement shared on X, the US Embassy reaffirmed its determination to continue the fight with the Indian government against acts of terror to ensure the safety and security of people.

"Today marks the 17th anniversary of the 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai. We honour the memory of the victims lost and stand in solidarity with the survivors and families. The United States has long supported India's efforts to ensure those responsible for these attacks are brought to justice. In a major step forward, the United States extradited Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India this year for his role in planning the horrific 2008 Mumbai terrorist attacks, resulting in the tragic loss of 166 lives, including six Americans," the US Embassy in India posted on X.

PM MODI BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER AS FRENCH BUSINESSMAN SAYS HE'S 'MADE IN INDIA'

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated French major Safran's Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul facility for aircraft engines in Hyderabad on Wednesday and promoted India to be a trusted partner for investors.

In a light-hearted moment during the event, Safran's Chairman, Ross McInnes, joked about being "Made in India", referring to the "Make in India" campaign, which cracked PM Modi up. McInnes said that the company will support India's campaign. "I want to say that I am attached to this because I was born in India. So I'm 'Made in India' too," he said.

Hearing this, PM Modi started laughing.

PM Modi said that the new facility meant for LEAP engines used in commercial aircraft will help in providing job opportunities for youngsters.

Designed to service up to 300 LEAP engines annually, the SAESI (Southern African Emergency Services Institute) facility will employ over 1,000 highly skilled Indian technicians and engineers upon achieving full operational capacity by 2035, PM Modi said.

He highlighted that the civil aviation sector in India is growing at a fast pace and that the demand for air travel in the country continues to rise.

99% OF VOTERS SUPPLIED WITH
ENUMERATION FORMS IN KERALA: EC TELLS
SC OPPOSING PLEAS TO DEFER SIR OF
ELECTORAL ROLLS



Diary Times Desk : The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Wednesday opposed the pleas to defer Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Kerala.

Senior Advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing ECI, told a bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi that 99% of voters have been supplied with the enumeration forms, and 50% of the forms have been digitised.

The Kerala government had earlier filed petitions to postpone the revision of electoral rolls as the local body elections are scheduled to take place on December 9 and 11, and conducting an SIR revision simultaneously would lead to administrative difficulties.

WHO'S POLLUTING DELHI'S AIR? DATA
SHOWS FARM FIRES ARE JUST PART OF
PROBLEM

Diary Times Desk : Delhi's annual battle with toxic air has once again turned the capital into a gas chamber. Data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) shows that Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) jumped from 130 on October 1 to a staggering 428 by November 11, before sliding slightly to 327 on November 26-still in the 'Very Poor' category.

Farm Fires: A Seasonal Spike, Not The Whole Story

Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana is often blamed for Delhi's pollution crisis, but data from the Decision Support System (DSS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences paints a nuanced picture.

In early October, farm fires contributed almost nothing to Delhi's pollution. But by October 17, their share rose to 2.62 per cent, coinciding with AQI crossing 250. The situation worsened in November: November 12: Farm fires contributed 22.47 per cent, AQI soared to 418 ('Severe')

'MOST UNHELPFUL': MEA
SLAMS CHINA'S ARBITRARY
ACTIONS AMID ROW OVER
ARUNACHAL WOMAN'S
DETENTION

Diary Times Desk : Arbitrary actions by China involving an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh are "most unhelpful" to ongoing efforts by both countries to build mutual trust and gradually normalise bilateral ties, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.

The remark came in response to questions about the impact of the detention of an Arunachal Pradesh-born Indian national at Shanghai airport on bilateral relations.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at the weekly briefing, "Arbitrary actions by China involving an Indian citizen from Arunachal Pradesh are most unhelpful towards efforts being made by both sides to build mutual trust and understanding, and gradually move towards normalisation of bilateral relations."

"COUNTRY WITH STAINED RECORD OF
BIGOTRY": INDIA AFTER PAK'S
AYODHYA REMARKS

Diary Times Desk : India on Wednesday reacted strongly to Pakistan's remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi raising a saffron flag at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh.

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen the reported remarks and reject them with the contempt they deserve. As a country with a deeply stained record of bigotry, repression, and systemic mistreatment of its minorities. Pakistan has no moral standing to lecture others. Rather than delivering hypocritical homilies, Pakistan would do better to turn its gaze inwards and focus on its own abysmal human rights record."

Pak had protested the raising of the saffron flag, labelling the move an attempt to increase pressure on minority communities in India and to erase Muslim heritage. The reference was to the Ram Temple having been built at the site of the demolished 16th century Babri Masjid.

"SHOULD BE SOLVED SOON": KARNATAKA MINISTER AMID
LEADERSHIP TUSSLE

Diary Times Desk : Satish Jarkiholi, Karnataka minister and Siddaramaiah loyalist, told NDTV today that he hoped that the row over the Chief Minister post - one that his boss Siddaramaiah described as "confusion" - be resolved soon. Asked for a timeline to the issue, he said, "This is not in our hands. The senior leaders, the Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Minister, there should be some discussion". The bottomline, he made clear, is that "There should be clarity" and more importantly -- he would abide by the high command's decision if they opt for a change in leadership.

The row over the Chief Minister post has been sporadic since the top leaders of the party had persuaded DK Shivakumar - aspirant for the top post -- to be deputy to Siddaramaiah.

This time it has started in earnest with the government completing the half-way mark.



AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN SEEK OUT ALTERNATIVE TRADING PARTNERS

Diary Times Desk : Afghanistan exported its first batch of apples and pomegranates to the Russian market this month, according to a report in the Times of India. Back in May, Alhaj Nuruddin Azizi, the minister of industry and commerce in Afghanistan's Taliban-led government, commented: "Russia is one of Afghanistan's most important trading partners."

He said his country could offer Russia fruits and spices as part of the mutual trade. Afghanistan is also keen on expanding trade with Iran, India and Central Asia in response to a sharp decline in bilateral trade with Pakistan.

Prices of fruits and vegetables have skyrocketed in Pakistan's Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces following the suspension of trade with Afghanistan after violent armed clashes on the border in October.

"Pakistan imports vegetables like tomatoes, onions and fruits and a lot of dry fruit from Afghanistan via road trade, but with borders closed, prices have gone up," Muhammad Fahad Iqbal, vice chairman of the fruits and vegetables association, told Times of India.

IMF SLAMS PAKISTAN'S FISCAL MISMANAGEMENT, DEMANDS URGENT TREASURY REFORMS

Diary Times Desk : The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has issued a stern critique of Pakistan's fiscal governance, highlighting chronic weaknesses in financial management, accountability, and transparency. Despite operating under its 24th IMF programme alongside the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Fund expressed dissatisfaction over the country's inability to manage public resources effectively and demanded urgent reforms in its Single Treasury Account (TSA) framework to prevent political misuse of taxpayer money, as reported by Dawn.

According to Dawn, the IMF's Governance and Corruption Diagnosis Assessment (GCDA), Pakistan has repeatedly struggled with "weak budget credibility," resulting in governance failures, project delays, and inflated costs.

The IMF also expressed concern over the widening gap between budgeted and actual expenditures, pointing to Rs9.4 trillion in parliamentary-approved overruns during the 2024-25 fiscal year, five times more than the previous year.

WOMAN WITH FAMILY TIES TO WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY KAROLINE LEAVITT ARRESTED BY ICE

Diary Times Desk : A woman with family relations to White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt is in ICE custody after being arrested earlier this month near Boston.

Bruna Caroline Ferreira, a Brazilian native and the mother of Leavitt's nephew, was arrested near Boston on November 12, her attorney, Todd Pomerleau, told CNN.

Leavitt's nephew has lived full-time in New Hampshire with his father, Leavitt's brother Michael, since he was born, a source familiar with the situation told CNN. Ferreira and the White House press secretary have not spoken in many years, the source said.

A spokesperson with the Department of Homeland Security told CNN Ferreira was in the US illegally after overstaying a tourist visa that required her to leave the country in June 1999. Ferreira is "a criminal illegal alien from Brazil" with "a previous arrest for battery" and is currently in removal proceedings, the spokesperson said. Pomerleau said the DHS statement is inaccurate. "We dispute that she has any criminal record. She is not a 'criminal illegal alien,'" he told CNN Wednesday.



POPE LEO: THEOLOGY MUST EXPLORE ALL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SCIENCE

Diary Times Desk : Pope Leo XIV met on Wednesday with members of the International Theological Commission, as they held their plenary assembly in Rome.

In his address, the Pope thanked them for their service to the Church as part of the Commission, which Pope St. Paul VI created in 1969 to guide the theological renewal of the Church after the Second Vatican Council.

He expressed appreciation for their recent document examining the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea, calling it an "authoritative text" that prepares the way for his Apostolic Journey to Türkiye, where he will visit the site of the Council.

Pope Leo encouraged the theologians to continue in their mission to discern the "new things" that mark the path of the human family and the Church.

"These are realities which urgently challenge us as the people of God, so that we may proclaim with creative fidelity the Good News given to the world 'once for all' by God our Father through the Lord Jesus Christ," he said.

ASIM MUNIR SAYS INDIA CONFLICT BOOSTED PAKISTAN'S GLOBAL STATURE, HAILS PAK ARMY

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan Army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, on Wednesday claimed that the "professionalism" displayed by the armed forces during the May conflict with India has enhanced Pakistan's standing on the global stage.

He made the remarks while addressing participants of the National Security Workshop-27 (NSW-27) at the General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

The participants received detailed briefings on Pakistan's regional and internal security landscape, as well as the prevailing national security environment, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said. The briefing was followed by an interactive session with Munir, who emphasized Pakistan's strategic importance in global affairs.

Professionalism and National Unity Key to Strength

"The professionalism, resolve, and commitment of the armed forces displayed during Marka-i-Haq (have) enhanced the global stature of Pakistan," Munir said. He further stated, "Our greatest strength lies in national unity, and together, we shall defeat the nefarious designs of our foes."

CANADA'S CITIZENSHIP REFORM: BIG RELIEF FOR INDIAN-ORIGIN FAMILIES

Diary Times Desk : Canada on Friday moved a step closer to modernising its citizenship-by-descent rules after Parliament approved a Bill that could reshape the lives of thousands of Indian-origin families.

In a statement, the Canadian government said the approval of Bill C-3, which amends the Citizenship Act (2025), marked a key moment in its effort to make the law more inclusive while keeping the value of Canadian citizenship intact.

The government's release noted, "Once the new law comes into force, Canadian citizenship will be provided to people born before the Bill comes into force, who would have been citizens if not for the first-generation limit or other outdated rules of past legislation."

What is the first-generation limit?

The first-generation limit was introduced in 2009. It prevents a child born or adopted abroad from automatically receiving Canadian citizenship if their Canadian parent was also born or adopted outside the country.

US HIKES NATIONAL PARK FEES FOR FOREIGNERS TO PUT 'AMERICAN FAMILIES FIRST'

Diary Times Desk : Foreign tourists visiting popular US national parks like the Grand Canyon and Yosemite will need to pay an extra fee, the Trump administration says.

The Department of the Interior, which runs the country's national parks, said each international visitor will need to pay \$100 (£76) per person on top of existing fees to access 11 of the most popular sites.

From 2026, non-residents will also need to pay more than \$250 for an annual pass to the parks, while US citizens and permanent residents will continue to pay \$80.

The fee hike aims to "put American families first" and reflects President Donald Trump's goal to make the parks more accessible and affordable for US citizens, said the department.

"These policies ensure that US taxpayers, who already support the National Park System, continue to enjoy affordable access, while international visitors contribute their fair share to maintaining and improving our parks for future generations," said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum.

IS TRUMP PLANNING TO FIRE FBI’S KASH PATEL? WHAT WHITE HOUSE SAID



Diary Times Desk : The White House denied that Donald Trump was considering removing FBI Director Kash Patel following a report that the president is weighing his ouster amid a string of controversies. MS NOW reported Tuesday that Trump was considering replacing Patel with FBI co-Deputy Director Andrew Bailey, as concerns swirled over the director’s social media posts during high-profile investigations and the use of a government jet to visit his girlfriend. “This story is completely made up,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt responded on X. Bailey, the former Missouri attorney general, has for months been seen as a possible replacement-in-waiting for both Patel and his other deputy, Dan Bongino, known more for their conservative political commentary than law enforcement experience. The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report. Trump also praised Patel in an interview with Fox News Radio last week, saying he had “a lot of confidence” in the director. Still, Patel’s conduct has come under intensified scrutiny in recent weeks. The New York Times reported the FBI dispatched a SWAT team to serve as a protective detail for Alexis Wilkins, his girlfriend and a country music singer. Patel has used government jets to visit Wilkins and for recreational travel, including a golf trip. The director defended the practice as standard in order to maintain access to secure communications equipment.

INDIAN LENDERS TO FINANCE
RUSSIAN OIL TRADE AMID
SANCTIONS COMPLIANCE AND
VERIFICATION CHECKS

Diary Times Desk : Indian banks are now willing to consider financing trade in Russian oil if it is sourced from non-blacklisted sellers and transactions are sanctions-compliant, indicating that the country’s biggest energy supplier of the last four years may retain a toehold in India’s import mix. That’s a shift from a few weeks ago — before the latest US curbs, which took effect on Friday — when lenders were wary of clearing payments for any Russian cargoes, citing difficulties in verifying the supply chain, Bloomberg reported quoting unnamed sources.

ATTACKS PROVE FAILURE OF MILITARY
REGIME: TALIBAN ON PAK STRIKES ON
CIVILIANS

Diary Times Desk : A fragile diplomatic truce between Pakistan and Afghanistan collapsed dramatically this week after Pakistani forces carried out overnight airstrikes inside Afghan territory, hitting civilian areas in Paktika, Khost, and Kunar provinces. The attacks, described by Afghan authorities as a “direct assault on sovereignty”, have triggered warnings from the Taliban-led Islamic Emirate, deepening an already volatile standoff that has stretched for weeks. The strikes come despite ceasefire understandings reached during recent Qatar and Turkey negotiations, where both sides publicly signalled readiness to de-escalate.

FRANCE’S MACRON: WORKING WITH EU COUNTRIES ON UKRAINE FINANCING
SOLUTION

Diary Times Desk : France will finalise with other European Union countries a solution for providing financial support to Ukraine using frozen Russian assets, President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday. Macron, who was speaking after a virtual meeting of the so-called Coalition of the Willing, said Ukraine needed a peace that was “serious” and “respectful of international law”. The Coalition will launch a working group led by France and Britain with close involvement from Turkey and, for the first time, the United States to hammer out security guarantees for Ukraine once a peace deal has been reached, he said. “Over the next few days, we will finalise each party’s contributions and finalise these security guarantees. This is essential for the Ukrainians, it is essential for negotiating a credible peace and for maintaining pressure on Russia,” he said. Ukraine signalled support on Tuesday for the framework of a peace deal with Russia but stressed that sensitive issues needed to be fixed at a meeting.



ITALIAN MAN HIDES MOTHER’S
BODY, DRESSES LIKE HER TO
CLAIM HER PENSION

Diary Times Desk : A 56-year-old man from northern Italy allegedly disguised himself as his mother, who died a few years ago, to continue claiming her annual pension worth thousands of euros. Instead of reporting her death in 2022, the man, a resident of Borgo Virgilio, near Mantua, reportedly hid her body at home and withdrew her pension payments, according to The Guardian.

Earlier this month, when her ID expired, he reportedly wore makeup, a wig, and women’s clothes to impersonate his mother at the municipal office. A staff member got suspicious and alerted the police.

The authorities compared a photo of the real woman with the man who came in pretending to be her. They then went to his house and found the mother’s body hidden in the laundry room.

UK UNVEILS SIGNIFICANT
TAX RISES IN BUDGET AFTER
‘SHAMBOLIC’ FORECAST
LEAK



Diary Times Desk : United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer Rachel Reeves has unveiled significant tax rises expected to raise 26.1bn pounds (\$34.4bn) as she battles a downgrade in forecast economic growth. The presentation of her budget statement to parliament on Wednesday came after an unprecedented leak from the government’s independent forecaster, the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), which published its economic and financial outlook early on its website, essentially signalling Reeves’s measures in advance. Reeves criticised the watchdog for the embarrassing blunder, which the OBR blamed on a “technical error”, saying it went “live on our website too early this morning”.

“This is deeply disappointing and a serious error on their part,” she told lawmakers. **Freeze on income tax thresholds**

The budget’s biggest change in terms of money raised is freezing the tax levels into which earners are placed, meaning as wages rise, more people fall into higher tax brackets.

TAIWAN UNVEILS \$40BN BUDGET FOR DEFENCE SPENDING TO COUNTER CHINA

Diary Times Desk : Taiwanese President William Lai Ching-te has announced a \$40bn budget for defence spending over the next eight years, to get "closer to the vision of an unassailable Taiwan, safeguarded by innovation and technology".

Taiwan has been ramping up defence spending over the past decade, but United States President Donald Trump's administration has pushed the self-ruled island to further increase its defence spending as a means to deter a potential Chinese attempt to regain control over the territory.

Lai said on Wednesday that the military aimed to have a "high level" of joint combat readiness against China by 2027 – which US officials have previously cited as a possible timeline for a Chinese military operation on the island.

"The ultimate goal is to establish defence capabilities that can permanently safeguard democratic Taiwan," Lai said at a news conference in Taipei after announcing the \$40bn spending plan in an opinion piece in The Washington Post newspaper. Lai's announcement came as Tokyo and Beijing were locked in a weeks-long diplomatic spat that followed remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggesting Japan could intervene militarily in any attack on Taiwan.

**TRUMP SAYS CHINA'S XI JINPING AGREED TO ACCELERATE PURCHASES OF US GOODS**

Diary Times Desk : Chinese President Xi Jinping has "more or less agreed" to increase purchases of goods from the United States, President Donald Trump said, a day after a phone call between the two leaders was described by Beijing as "positive, friendly and constructive".

Speaking to reporters on board Air Force One on Tuesday evening, Trump said he asked the Chinese leader during the call to accelerate purchases from the US.

"I think we will be pleasantly surprised by the actions of President Xi," Trump said.

"I asked him, I'd like you to buy it a little faster. I'd like you to buy more. And he's more or less agreed to do that," he said. Trump's upbeat forecast on trade with China comes after Beijing announced last month that it would resume purchases of US soya beans and would halt expanded curbs on rare earths exports to the US amid detente in the tariff war with Washington.

SIGNALS WITHOUT SYSTEMS: WHY COP30 FELL SHORT OF CLIMATE ACTION

Diary Times Desk : The 30th Conference of Parties (COP30) in Belem was expected to serve as the 'COP of Implementation', where aspirations of earlier COPs would translate into tangible outcomes. At the summit, Brazil took the 'Mutirão' approach, a traditional practice in which communities come together to work on a common goal.

However, it was met with a disconcerting contradiction: the world acknowledged the need for systemic climate action but did not commit to financing, timelines, and frameworks to facilitate it.

The COP30 decision text also reflected this disparity, acknowledging for the first time that the world will likely overshoot 1.5°C, yet offering no corrective pathway or ratcheting mechanism to steer action back on course.

WHO IS DAN DRISCOLL? TRUMP'S "DRONE GUY" LEADING UKRAINE PEACE TALKS

Diary Times Desk : Daniel P Driscoll, the youngest ever US Army Secretary and once known as Trump's "drone guy," is now America's key negotiator between Kyiv and Moscow.

Driscoll, 38, presented a draft US-backed peace plan to President Volodymyr Zelensky during his visit to Kyiv. The plan outlined stages towards a ceasefire and more extensive talks with Moscow. As part of the ongoing peace process, he is expected to meet Russian officials in Abu Dhabi next, according to BBC.

Who is Dan Driscoll?

Driscoll hails from Boone, North Carolina. He earned his law degree from Yale University, and interned at the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Alex Kozinski, and leading law firms, including Cravath, Swaine & Moore and Robinson, Bradshaw & Hinson.

He served in the US Army from 2007 to 2011. This included a deployment to Iraq in 2009. During his military career, he earned the prestigious Ranger tab at US Army Ranger School and the Combat Action Badge.

In 2020, he made a foray into politics by running for the Republican nomination in North Carolina's 11th congressional district. He was unsuccessful.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE'S PUSHBACK ON ISRAEL NORMALIZATION**REPORTEDLY IRKED TRUMP**

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump was left "disappointed and angry" after a "tense" exchange with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman over normalization with Israel during their White House meeting last week, Israeli television reported Tuesday.

Citing two senior American officials and an additional source familiar with the conversation, Channel 12 news said Trump was the one to raise the issue, urging the crown prince to move forward immediately with normalization. In response, Bin Salman pushed back, saying that while he isn't against normalization in principle, widespread anti-Israeli sentiment in Saudi Arabia following the war in Gaza doesn't allow for the move at this time.

While the conversation remained polite, a senior US official told the network that Trump was "disappointed and angry" over the crown prince's refusal.

BOLSONARO ORDERED TO START SERVING 27-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOR BRAZIL COUP PLOT

Diary Times Desk : Brazil's Supreme Court has ordered that right-wing former president Jair Bolsonaro begin serving his prison sentence of 27 years and three months for plotting a coup after he lost the last election.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes on Tuesday ruled that the case had reached its final judgement and that no further appeals were possible.

Bolsonaro, 70, was found guilty of leading a conspiracy aimed at keeping him in power after he lost the 2022 election to his left-wing rival, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

He will begin serving his sentence in a federal police jail cell in the capital, Brasilia, where he has been detained since Saturday after being deemed a flight risk and removed from home detention.

At a hearing on Sunday, Bolsonaro admitted trying to open his ankle monitor with a soldering iron until he "came to his senses", court documents show.

He said he had had no intention of fleeing and blamed medicine-induced "paranoia" for damage he caused to the monitor.

Justice Moraes on Tuesday mandated that full-time medical care be given to Bolsonaro, whose medical team has previously said he is suffering from worsening health.

13 DEAD AFTER FIRE RIPS THROUGH SEVEN HIGH-RISE BUILDINGS IN HONG KONG



Diary Times Desk : A fire spread across seven high-rise apartment buildings in a Hong Kong housing complex, killing 13 people and leaving others still trapped, the city's fire services said Wednesday. Nine people were declared dead at the scene and four others who were sent to the hospital were later confirmed dead, authorities told reporters. At least 15 others were injured.

About 700 people have been evacuated to temporary shelters.

The raging fire sent up a column of flames and thick smoke as it spread quickly on bamboo scaffolding and construction netting that had been set up around the exterior of the housing complex in Tai Po district, in the New Territories. Records show the housing complex consisted of eight blocks with almost 2,000 apartments housing about 4,800 people.

TRUMP DEFENDS WITKOFF AFTER LEAK APPEARS TO SHOW ENVOY COACHING RUSSIA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump has defended special envoy Steve Witkoff as doing the "standard thing" after a leaked recording appeared to show him advising a Russian official on how to appeal to the president. Trump told reporters on Wednesday he had not heard the audio, but that Witkoff was doing "what a dealmaker does" to "sell" the peace plan to both Russia and Ukraine. The leaked call from last month emerged days after a 28-point draft peace plan presented by the US largely reflected Russian positions on its full-scale war in Ukraine.

Witkoff has visited Moscow several times this year and will meet Russian President Vladimir Putin again next week.

He has never gone to Kyiv in his role as special envoy, although other US officials have visited and US army secretary Dan Driscoll went to Kyiv this week and Trump says he will hold further talks with the Ukrainians.

WHERE IS IMRAN KHAN? SISTERS ASK TO MEET JAILED EX-PAK PM AMID DEATH RUMOURS

Diary Times Desk : Amid rumours claiming former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan died in jail, his three sisters have claimed that they were "brutally assaulted" by police for demanding a meeting with the jailed leader. Khan's sisters -- Noreen Khan, Aleema Khan, and Uzma Khan -- have claimed police assaulted them, along with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters, when they gathered outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail this week, demanding that authorities allow them to meet the former PM.

Khan has been lodged in Adiala Jail since 2023. Khan's sisters have alleged that they have not been allowed to meet their brother in more than three weeks.

In a letter to Punjab police chief Usman Anwar, Khan's sisters said the violence was "brutal and orchestrated and carried out by policemen without provocation."

TEENS LAUNCH HIGH COURT CHALLENGE TO AUSTRALIA'S SOCIAL MEDIA BAN



Diary Times Desk : Australia's landmark social media ban for children is being challenged in the nation's highest court, with two teenagers alleging the law is unconstitutional as it robs them of their right to free communication.

From 10 December, social media firms - including Meta, TikTok and YouTube - must ensure that Australians aged under 16 cannot hold accounts on their platforms.

The law, which is being watched closely around the world, was justified by campaigners and the government as necessary to protect children from harmful content and algorithms.

However, 15-year-olds Noah Jones and Macy Neyland - backed by a rights group - will argue the ban completely disregards the rights of children.

"We shouldn't be silenced. It's like Orwell's book 1984, and that scares me," Macy Neyland said in a statement.

The Digital Freedom Project (DFP) announced the case had been filed in the High Court on Wednesday. Teenagers rely on social media for information and association, and a ban could hurt the nation's most vulnerable kids - young people with disability, First Nations youth, rural and remote kids and LGBTIQ+ teenagers - the most, the group said on their website.

CAN TRUMP BREAK THE VICIOUS CYCLE THAT PROLONGS THE WAR IN UKRAINE?

Diary Times Desk : Bullish assessments by US officials are driving President Donald Trump's latest effort to end the war in Ukraine toward a familiar and inevitable acid test.

Will Russia agree to any deal that Ukraine and its European partners modify to secure their sovereignty and security?

Trump is pining for an agreement - both because he lives for deals and because he's trying to bill himself as a global peacemaker as he builds a legacy. He has shown he's not too worried about whether any final pact ends up rewarding the aggressor, Russia, or whether it will leave NATO's European states fearing further expansionism by the Kremlin.

FLORIDA UNI FIRE TRAGEDY: AT LEAST 30 INDIAN STUDENTS DEVASTATED - PREET HARSODA FUNDRAISER NEARS \$50K

Diary Times Desk : A GoFundMe campaign dedicated to helping raise treatment funds for Preet Harsoda, a 27-year-old Indian student in the US, has nearly amassed \$50,000. However, the finish line is still far off, considering only 42% of the \$100,000 goal has been achieved so far.

The Indian Students Association of Tallahassee's (INSAT) president Mani Tyagi also started a separate GoFundMe in collaboration with the India Association of Tallahassee (IATLH), according to local US reports. This particular fundraiser had completed nearly 90% of its \$60,000 goal, having raised \$52,261 at the time of writing.

Both fundraisers seek to alleviate the life-changing troubles faced by dozens of Indian students miles away from their home country in light of an alarming fire consuming an apartment complex in Florida last week.



THE CRYPTO INDUSTRY GOT EVERYTHING IT WANTED. IT'S STILL HAVING A MELTDOWN

Diary Times Desk : This was supposed to be the year cryptocurrency, a 16-year-old asset that promised to be the future of finance, came into its own.

The multi-trillion-dollar industry got just about everything on its wish list over the past year: a rush of new money from mainstream investors, industry-approved bipartisan legislation in Congress, a rubber-stamp regulatory apparatus, and, not least, the full-throated support of the president of the United States.

Despite that, crypto has had a rough ride, with bitcoin tumbling 30% from its peak in early October, a far steeper decline than the broader stock market.

TRUMP'S GAS PRICE DISCOUNT HAS DISAPPEARED

Diary Times Desk : 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. During a major economic policy speech in Miami on November 6, Trump claimed, "Gasoline prices have plummeted to the lowest in two decades."

HOW TO EXPLAIN AI TO YOUR FAMILY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Diary Times Desk : Add artificial intelligence to the potential sources of Thanksgiving dinner quarrels this year.

Maybe Uncle Larry wants to know if the robots are coming for your job. Or your cousin Daniela is considering dumping her whole 401k into AI darling Nvidia. And are your little nieces and nephews talking about their new bestest AI friend (and should you worry)? What even is AI anyway?

AI's rise as a conversation topic is a sign of the recent leaps and bounds in the technology. While it's been around for more than a decade, the rapid rise of chatbots and seemingly bajillions of AI products have made the tech more visible than ever.

Here's how to answer the Larrys and Danielas in your own family if they talk about AI this year.

What is AI good for anyway? There's a lot AI still can't do, it's true. But the technology can help organize and understand large data sets and documents.

LAWSUIT ALLEGES SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS BURIED THEIR OWN RESEARCH ON TEEN MENTAL HEALTH HARMS

Diary Times Desk : Meta, YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat know exactly how addictive their platforms can be to teens. And they continue to target teen users anyway. Those are allegations a group of school districts is making in a lawsuit against the social media giants, according to a newly unsealed legal filing that quotes the companies' own internal documents.

"IG (Instagram) is a drug ... we're basically pushers," Meta researchers said in an internal chat, according to the filing. An internal TikTok report noted that "minors do not have executive mental function to control their screen time." Snapchat executives once acknowledged that users who "have the Snapchat addiction have no room for anything else. Snap dominates their life."

And staffers within YouTube once said that "[d]riving more frequent daily usage [was] not well-aligned with ... efforts to improve digital wellbeing," the filing states. The brief containing the internal comments, research and employee testimony has been presented as evidence in a massive lawsuit brought by hundreds of individuals, school districts and attorneys general from across the United States against the four companies — Instagram-parent Meta, Snap, TikTok and YouTube-parent Google — in the Northern District Court of California.



HP TO CUT ABOUT 6,000 JOBS BY 2028, RAMPS UP AI EFFORTS

Diary Times Desk : HP Inc said on Tuesday it expects to cut between 4,000 and 6,000 jobs globally by fiscal 2028 as part of a plan to streamline operations and adopt artificial intelligence to speed up product development, improve customer satisfaction and boost productivity.

HP's teams focused on product development, internal operations and customer support will be impacted by the job cuts, CEO Enrique Lores said during a media briefing call.

"We expect this initiative will create \$1 billion in gross run rate savings over three years," Lores added.

The company laid off an additional 1,000 to 2,000 employees in February, as part of a previously announced restructuring plan.

Demand for AI-enabled PCs has continued to ramp externally, reaching over 30% of HP's shipments in the fourth quarter ended October 31. A global memory chip price surge brought on by rising demand from data centers could push up costs and pressure profits.



HOW AMERICA’S
BIGGEST RETAILERS ARE
PREPARING FOR AN
UNPREDICTABLE
HOLIDAY SEASON

Diary Times Desk :
America’s biggest stores are taking big swings this holiday season, trying to stand out and attract cautious consumers. President Donald Trump’s tariffs, sticky inflation and rising unemployment are prompting Americans to be more careful with their holiday spending. Wells Fargo projects this year’s holiday sales will rise between 3.5% and 4% from last year. But that doesn’t account for higher prices due to inflation, so actual spending could be flat. “This year is really back to basics and leveraging strong merchandising, strong discounting, and making sure that (retailers are) getting their customers in the door this holiday,” Wells Fargo retail economist Lauren Murphy told CNN.

RESTAURANT
RESERVATIONS SPIKE
FOR THANKSGIVING AS
GROCERY STORE PRICES
BITE

Diary Times Desk :
Whether it’s due to the stress or financial burden of planning a multi-course meal, an increasing number of people are choosing to eat out for Thanksgiving this year.

Restaurant reservations for Thursday’s holiday are 13% higher year-over-year, according to exclusive data shared with CNN from OpenTable, a booking platform that encompasses more than 60,000 locations.

Thanksgiving arrives at a time when the cost of groceries is climbing for several reasons, including tariffs, the immigration crackdown and extreme weather affecting food supply. Prices rose in August at the fastest pace in three years and increased again in September, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



UK’S UNPOPULAR GOVERNMENT DELIVERS TAX-RAISING BUDGET
AFTER LEAK THAT OUTLINED ITS MAIN PLANS

Diary Times Desk :
Britain’s unpopular center-left Labour government sought to seize the political narrative Wednesday with a tax-raising budget that it hopes will boost economic growth, reduce child poverty and ease cost-of-living pressures.

But the chaos that has engulfed the government during weeks of mixed messaging and political infighting continued up to the final moment. The entire contents of the budget were leaked half an hour before Treasury chief Rachel Reeves delivered the budget statement in the House of Commons.

The government was elected in a landslide victory in July 2024 on a promise not to raise taxes on income for working people, and Reeves acknowledged that some of the budget’s £26 billion (\$34 billion) in tax hikes broke the spirit of that pledge and would face criticism. But, she said, “I have yet to see a credible or a fairer alternative plan for working people.



THIS THANKSGIVING, WEED SMOKERS ARE GRATEFUL FOR ‘GREEN
WEDNESDAY’



Diary Times Desk : If the guests at your Thanksgiving table this year are a bit moonier than usual, don’t assume they ate too much turkey. And if they seem extra enthused about digging into pie after a filling meal, well —

Adding to late November’s ever-growing list of festivities and shopping promotions, cannabis brands are now marketing “Green Wednesday:” the day before Thanksgiving, when childhood friends reunite and presumably light up. And consumers are heeding the call: Green Wednesday is the second-largest holiday for cannabis behind April 20, said Joyce Sinali, co-founder of the Cannabis Media Council, a trade group that seeks to improve the public perception of weed.

“Green Wednesday is not a real holiday,” said Jennifer Bartholomeo, a general manager of the Travel Agency, a New York dispensary chain. “But if you think about it, you’re traveling home to see your family, extended family is visiting and everyone is taking a walk with their cousin. And what do you think you’re doing on that walk?”

Whether junior relations are sneaking away from the gathering to smoke together or popping an edible to assuage their anxiety before they face the rest of the family, getting high on the 17th century feast day is an emergent 21st century tradition.

“I think it’s a way for the younger generation -- and I mean, honestly, the older generation; everyone is smoking weed, whether they share it or not -- to have the family come together,” he said. Getting high can be a communal act, Cohen said, and on Thanksgiving, that looks like the surreptitious outing for younger family members the internet calls the “cousin walk.”

“It’s a way to bond,” he said. “It’s almost a gossip session, as well -- like, ‘Oh my god, are we going to turn out just like our parents? They’re f**king crazy!’ What a great way to do that, over a joint.” While Dickson said her family “might be mad at me for outing them” as cannabis users, she still can’t quite believe that she’s able to get high with her parents.

HIMACHAL EDUCATION
BOARD ANNOUNCES
EXAM DATES FOR
CLASSES 10, 12

Diary Times Desk :The Himachal Pradesh Board of School Education (HPBOSE) on Wednesday released the annual examination schedule for classes X and XII (Regular and Open School) for the 2025–26 academic session.

The board chairman, Rajesh Sharma, informed that both practical and theory examinations will be conducted between February and April, 2026.

According to a notification issued by the Board today, the practical exams for classes X and XII (Regular and Open School) will be held from February 20 to February 28, 2026.

The theory examinations for Class X will take place from March 3 to March 28, 2026, while Class XII exams will be conducted from March 3 to April 1, 2026. All theory papers will be held in the morning session from 9:45 am to 1:00 pm, Sharma said.

PANCHAYAT ELECTION
DELAY, FUNDS ROW TO
DOMINATE SESSION

Diary Times Desk : The winter session of the Vidhan Sabha is likely to be a stormy affair as ruling Congress and opposition BJP train guns on each other over deferment of the panchayat polls and Centre making Himachal wait for financial assistance.

The 10-day session will commence at Dharamsala from tomorrow with Congress and BJP legislature parties holding meeting to chalk out their strategies. The session will conclude on December 5 with a total of eight sittings.

The biggest issue that the BJP will raise in the house is the attempts by the state government to defer the panchayati raj institution (PRI) elections, alleging fear of defeat. The fact that the State Election Commission (SEC) is firm on holding the elections on time gives further ammunition to the BJP to target the state government on the issue.

OP SINDOOR LEGACY OF GURU’S VALOUR: MODI

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said Operation Sindoor reflected the bravery and sacrifice embodied by Guru Tegh Bahadur, who regarded the protection of truth, justice and faith his dharma and sacrificed his life for it. “Revered figures like Guru Tegh Bahadur are rare in history. His life, character and sacrifice in resisting Mughal oppression continue to inspire generations. The government will continue to serve ‘Guru parampara’ with the same commitment,” the PM said while addressing a special programme here to commemorate the 350th martyrdom anniversary of the ninth Sikh Guru. Modi said just as Lord Krishna upheld the protection of truth and justice during the Mahabharata battle in Kurukshetra, Guru Tegh Bahadur defended the dharma of truth, justice and faith, and laid down his life for it. He said Operation Sindoor was a continuation of that legacy.



5 OF PUNJAB FAMILY KILLED IN
TRAGIC BRAMPTON HOUSE FIRE;
LUDHIANA VILLAGE IN MOURNING

Diary Times Desk : A pall of gloom has descended on Guram village in Ludhiana district after five members of a local family died in a devastating house fire at their residence in Brampton, Canada, about a week ago.

Among the deceased was the unborn child of Arashveer Kaur, who survived by jumping from the roof but suffered severe injuries that resulted in a miscarriage.

Happy Shankar, a close relative of the family, said that Jugraj Singh was the only member of the joint family present in the Brampton home at the time of the incident who managed to escape the blaze that broke out last Thursday.

His mother-in-law, an unmarried sister-in-law, a niece and his wife’s cousin all perished in the fire. His wife, Arashveer Kaur, sustained injuries after leaping from the rooftop in a desperate attempt to save her life.

SC SETS UP MEDICAL BOARD AT
NOIDA HOSPITAL TO EXPLORE
PASSIVE EUTHANASIA FOR 31-YR-
OLD

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Noida district hospital to constitute a primary board to explore passive euthanasia for a 31-year-old man suffering from 100 per cent disability quadriplegia and has been in a vegetative state for over a decade, saying his health condition has gone from bad to worse.

Passive euthanasia is the intentional act of letting a patient die by withholding or withdrawing life support or treatment necessary for maintaining life.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan asked the district hospital at Noida in sector 39 to file its report within two weeks on an application filed by father of 31-year-old Harish Rana seeking passive euthanasia for him saying his health condition has gone from bad to worse.

We want the primary board to give us a report that life-sustaining treatment can be withheld. Let the primary board place its report at the earliest, and once it is before us, we shall proceed to pass further orders. Let this exercise be done within two weeks,” the bench directed.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
27-11-2025

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

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.

FAILURE TO UTILISE RS
18.50 LAKH GRANT LED
TO COURT MISHAP:
DEEPENDER HOODA

Diary Times Desk : Congress MP from Rohtak Deepender Singh Hooda on Wednesday visited the home of basketball player Hardik, who had died while practising at the mini-stadium in Lakkan Majra town. Expressing deep sorrow over the tragic mishap, the MP consoled the family members of the deceased player.

He stated that the tragic accidents that killed two promising young athletes from the state, Hardik and Aman, were caused due to the criminal negligence and indifference of the government. Deepender said he had given a grant of Rs 18.50 lakh for the repair and maintenance of the infrastructure at the mini-stadium in Lakkan Majra, adding that mishap would not have taken place had the money been utilised for the purpose.

The Congress leader demanded that a member of Hardik and Aman's families be given governments job and maximum financial support.

HARYANA: GOVT
DOCTORS TO SHUT OPD
SERVICES FOR 2 HOURS
ON NOVEMBER 27

Diary Times Desk : Government doctors across Haryana will observe a pen-down strike on November 27, keeping OPD services shut from 9 am to 11 am in support of their demands. The decision was taken by the Haryana Civil Medical Services Association (HCMSA) during an online meeting of its state executive on Monday evening. Earlier, doctors had planned to shut the OPDs on Tuesday, but the strike was postponed in view of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Kurukshetra. The association is demanding an immediate halt to the direct recruitment of Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and the issuance of the modified Assured Career Progression (ACP) structure, which has been approved by the CM, but is pending with the Finance Department.

"All OPD services, except emergency, labour room and operations, will remain suspended," said Dr Rajesh Khyalia, state president of the HCMSA.

RECORD INDIA BID: FRENZY FOR FANCY VEHICLE NUMBERS PEAKS IN HARYANA,
HR88B8888 FETCHES RS 1.17 CRORE

Diary Times Desk : Haryana's Badhra subdivision in Charkhi Dadri district fetched the highest bid in the country today, with vehicle registration number 'HR88B8888' fetching a whopping Rs 1.17 crore.

The transport authorities have not disclosed the name of the person who won the bid. The bid, which stood at Rs 1.03 lakh at 4.20 pm, rose dramatically before closing at Rs 1.17 crore at 5 pm.

A total of 45 persons took part in the bid which was conducted by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on its web portal.



3 DECADES LATER, HC ORDERS
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE'S FAMILY

Diary Times Desk : Nearly 30 years after the government employee died, the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered Haryana to release financial assistance to his family under the 2006 Compassionate Assistance Rules. The direction came as Justice Sandeep Moudgil held that the claim could not have been rejected in the manner done by the authorities and that the department had acted arbitrarily by ignoring the 2010 judgment which retrospectively restored the employee's service. Allowing the petition filed through counsel GPS Bal, Justice Moudgil directed the State to extend benefits within four weeks, while asserting that the authorities had wrongly relied on technical objections and a belated-application argument even though the claim had remained pending only because the department continued to insist—incorrectly—that the deceased stood dismissed. The Bench asserted that long-pending claims could not be defeated through restrictive interpretations, particularly when the facts placed the family squarely within the protective ambit of the compassionate assistance framework.

MODI INVOKES GURU TEGH
BAHADUR, KRISHNA, SAYS
NATION MARCHING AHEAD WITH
STRENGTH, COURAGE

Diary Times Desk : Addressing a congregation at Jyotisar on the occasion of the 350th Martyrdom Day of Guru Tegh Bahadur on Tuesday, PM Narendra Modi said inspired by the teachings of the Guru, the country was moving ahead with strength, courage and clarity.

Earlier, the PM visited the Mahabharata Anubhav Kendra and inaugurated Panchjanya Memorial—the sacred conch of Lord Krishna installed at Jyotisar. In the evening, Modi performed a 'maha aarti' at the Brahma Sarovar on the occasion of the International Gita Mahotsav.

During his address, the PM said, "Guru Sahib taught us that we should neither frighten anyone nor live in fear of anyone. This fearlessness strengthens society and the nation, and today, India too follows this principle."

ON CAMERA, 2 MINOR BASKETBALL PLAYERS DIE IN SEPARATE FREAK COURT
ACCIDENTS IN ROHTAK, JHAJJAR



Diary Times Desk : In two separate incidents, two minor boys died while practicing after basketball poles reportedly collapsed on them in Rohtak and Bahadurgarh town (Jhajjar). The deceased have been identified as Aman (15) of Bahadurgarh and Hardik (16) of Lakkan Majra (Rohtak), both Class X students.

The first incident occurred in Bahadurgarh on Sunday. According to reports, Aman had gone to a local stadium for basketball practice in the afternoon when the pole suddenly fell on him. He was rushed to the civil hospital and later referred to PGIMS Rohtak, where he succumbed to his injuries on Monday night. His cremation was performed on Tuesday.

South Asians hail the special social skill that tamed Trump

President Donald Trump's exceedingly warm reception of New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani at the White House last week left observers attempting to decipher what it all meant.

To longtime Trump watchers, it showed the popularity-hungry president responding to a charismatic winner; to one anti-monopolist, it showed a potential alliance between left and right populists; to a hyperlocal New York newspaper, it showed two men from Queens getting together.

To South Asians and third culture kids, the encounter showed an immigrant son of the Indian diaspora flexing a very familiar and particular skill — one likely honed over years of uncomfortable interactions with paternalistic elders.

"Desis have found Mamdani's polite smile, respectful head tilt and general mollifying of Trump kick in a very particular muscle memory — of tactical deference to Aunts and Uncles whose lectures they actually have zero intention of obeying," Times of India journalists opined in a recent editorial, referring to people with roots in the Indian subcontinent.



Harmeet Kaur Gadget listened this ability to a dance that South Asians are especially practiced in. "Eventually you start leading without the other person realizing that you were following just a moment ago," he said. "To an outsider, it looks like a very choreographed piece."

"What Zohran did was not extraordinary statesmanship or youthful rebellion but simply the oldest trick in our collective cultural book, the desi art of letting the elder talk while quietly keeping the steering wheel of our own intent," Indian diarist Kedar Gadgil mused on LinkedIn.

"We're disruptors, but we are managing to maintain respect for our elders. We're learning how to play into the system that has raised us," Yamuna Meleth, an actor and singer who was raised in Alabama by Indian immigrants, said in an interview. "I think that is Desi training."

CNN reached out to Mamdani's team to ask about this assessment. But whether Mamdani perfected this art as a result of his immigrant upbringing, whether it was meticulous preparation on behalf of his staff or whether he simply caught the previously hostile president in a good mood is besides the point.

Fellow South Asians saw something familiar in Mamdani's Oval Office demeanor: his uncharacteristically subdued smile, his respectful yet uncompromising tone and his deft deflections of questions intended to highlight his and Trump's fundamental disagreements.

Meleth said Mamdani's behavior toward Trump reminded her of fielding unsolicited advice from aunts and uncles growing up.

"There is a patience that is instilled in you and a sort of acceptance, almost like you're trained to let it go in one ear and out the other," she added.

The trick, in her experience, is "letting them gas you up and to let them think that they have something to do with your success."

In his meeting with the president, Mamdani appeared to do just that. When asked if New York City loved Trump, he immediately pivoted to his signature message about affordability while acknowledging that New Yorkers shifted toward Trump in 2024 because of his campaign's focus on cost of living.

Trump, in turn, seemed delighted at the media's interest in the meeting and tried to play up their perceived similarities.

"Some of his ideas really are the same ideas that I have," he said at one point. At another, "I want him to do a great job, and we'll help him do a great job."

In A Scientific First

BIOLOGISTS RECORDED A WILD WOLF POTENTIALLY USING TOOLS

A female wild wolf living on the central coast of British Columbia was filmed pulling a crab trap out of the ocean to eat the bait — a never-before-seen behavior that could constitute the first documented use of tools by a wolf.



"What matters is how the behaviour is acquired and what controls it once it is acquired. As the authors correctly highlight, humans never fully 'understand' the physics of what they do, but they know what works based on their experience."



Jacopo Prisco The researchers don't know how many wolves have learned this behavior, but they did film another interaction between a different wolf and a trap. That recording, however, failed to show whether this wolf extracted the fully submerged canister.

The traps were set by the Heiltsuk (Haízaqv) Nation as part of an environmental stewardship program run by the indigenous community.

The program centers in part on combating the spread of the European green crab, an invasive species that is ravaging local ecosystems.

"The traps were starting to get damaged, and the damage did look like it could have been a bear or a wolf," said Kyle Artelle, an assistant professor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry and coauthor of a new study about the discovery.

"For the traps that are in shallow water, that makes sense — a bear or wolf could just walk up to them. But some of them were in really deep water and not exposed even on the lowest tide. The assumption was it couldn't be a bear or a wolf, because they don't dive. So, who could it be?" To find out, the researchers set up motion-triggered cameras, thinking they might see an otter or a seal. Instead, one of the cameras captured a wolf swimming to shore with a buoy in her mouth before dropping it on the sand. Next, she grabbed the line that was attached to the buoy and pulled it until a trap emerged from the water. The animal continued to haul the trap toward the shore until it was in a shallow area, and then she broke open a canister containing the bait — a piece of herring.

"We were amazed. It was not what we were expecting, to say the least," Artelle said. "Folks who are lucky enough to spend time around wolves know they're super smart, so the fact that they're capable of doing highly intelligent things, in and of itself, isn't surprising. But this kind of behavior has not been seen before."

Focused action, not play The researchers don't know how many wolves have learned this behavior, but they did film another interaction between a different wolf and a trap. That recording, however, failed to show whether this wolf extracted the fully submerged canister.

Artelle said he believes that the wolves might have found out about the traps by seeing humans drop them from boats — or they may have accessed one that was in shallow waters due to low tides and then figured out how to retrieve progressively deeper traps.

What's remarkable about the interaction is that the wolf had to put together a series of steps to get to the bait, Artelle said. "It's a sequence of behaviors that ultimately gets her towards that goal. It's problem-solving, and it's problem-solving exactly the way humans do it," he said. "We would have done the exact same thing if we were trying to access that trap from shore."

INFA

Woman with family ties to White House

PRESS SECRETARY KAROLINE LEAVITT ARRESTED BY ICE

A woman with family relations to White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt is in ICE custody after being arrested earlier this month near Boston.



Alejandra Jaramillo Ferreira's attorney said she was a former recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which grants temporary protection from deportation for those brought to the US as children.

Bruna Caroline Ferreira, a Brazilian native and the mother of Leavitt's nephew, was arrested near Boston on November 12, her attorney, Todd Pomerleau, told CNN. Leavitt's nephew has lived full-time in New Hampshire with his father, Leavitt's brother Michael, since he was born, a source familiar with the situation told CNN. Ferreira and the White House press secretary have not spoken in many years, the source said.

A spokesperson with the Department of Homeland Security told CNN Ferreira was in the US illegally after overstaying a tourist visa that required her to leave the country in June 1999. Ferreira is "a criminal illegal alien from Brazil" with "a previous arrest for battery" and is currently in removal proceedings, the spokesperson said. Pomerleau said the DHS statement is inaccurate. "We dispute that she has any criminal record. She is not a 'criminal illegal alien,'" he told CNN Wednesday. Ferreira's attorney said she was a former recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which grants temporary

protection from deportation for those brought to the US as children. She was unable to renew her status a few years ago during President Donald Trump's efforts to end the program during his first administration, but is currently in the middle of a "lawful immigration process" for US citizenship, Pomerleau said.

Ferreira was arrested while driving to pick up her son from New Hampshire, Pomerleau told CNN. Ferreira and Michael Leavitt were previously engaged and have joint custody over their 11-year-old son, Pomerleau said.

Ferreira is being detained at the South Louisiana ICE Processing Center in Basile, said Pomerleau. The facility is about 80 miles from Baton Rouge and more than 1,500 miles from where Ferreira was arrested.

Michael Leavitt told CNN affiliate WMUR Ferreira has maintained a relationship with their son, but the boy has not spoken to her since her detention. He described the situation as difficult and said he just wants the best for his son.

A GoFundMe page, verified by Ferreira's lawyer, has been created by her sister, Graziela Dos Santos Rodrigues, for legal fees and expenses.

As of Wednesday morning, more than \$15,000 has been raised.

"Bruna was brought to the United States by our parents in December of 1998, when she was just a child ... Since then, she has done everything in her power to build a stable, honest life here," Ferreira's sister wrote in the GoFundMe campaign. She said Ferreira has "maintained her legal status through DACA."

Trump tried to end DACA during his first term, but the Supreme Court ruled his administration had not taken the proper steps to do so. Some DACA recipients have been among those arrested in the administration's current sweeping immigration enforcement.

In a recent statement to the Associated Press, Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin said those with status under the Obama-era program "are not automatically protected from deportations," adding, "DACA does not confer any form of legal status in this country."



THE HISTORIC CELLAR OF JÜRGEN SCHWARZ

Diary Times Desk : Jürgen Schwarz remembers the moment he discovered exceptionally old wine like it was yesterday. 'In 1974 I was helping my friend bottle wines in the cool cellar of his parents' house on Lake Constance. Down there was a dusty shelf of about sixty bottles, which he called his "treasures." One day he opened a Sauternes Château Coutet from the 1940s. The taste revealed a new world to me — a world where history lived inside a glass. I was hooked.'

By the end of the decade Schwarz and his girlfriend Barbara — now his wife — were frequently driving from their university in Frankfurt to Zurich for wine auctions, sampling up to 50 bottles at each sale. 'This was my classroom,' he explains. By the time he purchased a bottle of Château Latour from 1858 at Christie's in 1987, this inquisitiveness had turned into an obsession.

'Jürgen Schwarz's cellar is one of the most broad, deep and captivating collections of wine I've ever seen,' says Edwin Vos, Senior International Director, Head of Collections, Christie's Wine. On 5 and 6 December 2025, more than 3500 bottles from Schwarz's collection are being offered in a single-owner sale at Christie's in New York. A further selection of bottles will be offered on 3 February 2026 in Hong Kong.

A global journey in wine

The extraordinary wine collection belonging to Jürgen Schwarz starts with French legends of Burgundy, Bordeaux and the Rhône, like Domaine Leroy, Henri Mayer, Domaine de la Romanée-Conti, Haut-Brion, Mouton Rothschild, Chave, and La Chapelle. Then it delves into lesser known but no less impressive domaines, such as Troplong Mondot, and the biodynamic Ausone.

From there, it traces his curiosity across the continent. Spain is represented by Rioja from Marqués de Murrieta, Vega Sicilia showcases the Ribera del Duero, whilst Álvaro Palacios put Catalonia's Prioat region on the map following his stint at Pétrus.

In Italy, Sassicaia, Ornellaia, Tignanello and Masseto celebrate the powerful wines coming out of Tuscany. Bruno Giacosa and Roberto Voerzio are towering figures of Barbaresco and Barolo in Piedmont. In nearby Veneto, Giuseppe Quintarelli produces some of the country's most complex wine. And across the border into Germany, Schlossgut Diel, a vineyard passed through seven generations of one family, marks the future of Riesling.

'My consulting career took me around the world, and wherever business led me I made time for vineyards,' he says. But what makes Schwarz's collection truly remarkable is where it goes next: far back in time.



A DINOSAUR NICKNAMED SPIKE: 'THIS IS NOT QUITE LIKE ANYTHING WE'VE SEEN BEFORE — SO POSSIBLY A NEW SPECIES THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT'

Diary Times Desk : Sixty-six million years ago, the Earth was in its late Cretaceous period. The single landmass known as Pangea had split apart into something like the continents we recognise today. Yet the climate was around 10 degrees warmer — allowing rainforests to thrive near both poles — and sea levels were up to 170 metres higher, submerging 80 per cent of the planet's surface. Giant marine reptiles patrolled the oceans, while flying reptiles filled the sky. The land, meanwhile, was dominated by some of the most fascinating species that have ever lived.

A long-necked Alamosaurus could measure up to 25 metres in length and weigh 35 tons — six times as much as an elephant — making it one of the largest terrestrial animals of all time. Triceratops had evolved its iconic bony frill and trio of horns, as well as hundreds of teeth to chew through thick vegetation. And at the top of the Cretaceous food chain was the ultimate predator, Tyrannosaurus rex.

This was also the era of the Caenagnathidae. Part of the group of dinosaurs known as Oviraptorosauria, these bipedal creatures could grow to eight metres in length and weigh a ton. They had short, thick tails and powerful hind legs that could propel them forward at around 60 kilometres per hour — much faster than a hungry T. rex. A pair of long arms terminated in dangerous claws the length of a human finger: ideal for snatching their own small prey, grazing (they were probably omnivorous), or defence.

More fascinating, however, is the fact that, like modern-day birds, Caenagnathids also had pointed beaks and were covered in feathers. Crowning their heads was a large, bony protrusion, giving this particular Caenagnathid specimen its name: Spike.

On 11 December 2025, Spike is being offered in Groundbreakers: Icons of Our Time at Christie's in London. It's the best-preserved Caenagnathid in private hands, and this is the first time an example has been offered for sale to the public. 'This is an incredibly rare, newly discovered dinosaur skeleton,' says Ben Garrod, professor of evolutionary biology at the University of East Anglia, in the short film above. The late Cretaceous came to a crashing halt when a 10-kilometre-wide asteroid slammed into what is now the Yucatán Peninsula in Mexico. It caused a devastating megatsunami, firestorms and a global dust cloud that blocked out the sun, resulting in ecosystem collapse and bringing about an abrupt end to the dinosaurs' 165-million-year reign. Relatively speaking, Spike was one of the last of its kind.



BARCELONA HOMEGROWN STAR LOSES PROMINENCE IN FLICK’S
PLANS AFTER BREAKTHROUGH LAST SEASON



Diary Times Desk : Marc Casado was one of the breakthrough stars for FC Barcelona last season, grabbing the opportunity that came his way under Hansi Flick with both hands. Having been close to leaving the club at one point, the La Masia graduate became a mainstay in the team and ended the 2024/25 term with 2447 minutes across 36 games in all competitions, even chipping in with a goal and six assists. This time, however, things are not looking that bright for the 22-year-old defensive midfielder. Casado losing prominence Indeed, as reported by SPORT, Casado has pretty much vanished from the picture in the ongoing campaign. The La Masia product has accumulated 591 minutes so far this season across 13 matches, seven of them as a starter. However, of those matches, Casado only finished three on the pitch, and in two, he was taken off at half-time. The midfielder, who has been included in all eighteen Barcelona squads this season, only missed one match through injury: the game against Celta Vigo.

BARCELONA HEAVYWEIGHT CONTINUES
RECOVERY EVEN AS FLICK CANCELS
TRAINING AFTER CHELSEA LOSS

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona were handed a reality check in the UEFA Champions League last night as they suffered a 3-0 loss to Chelsea at Stamford Bridge.

It was a game where the reigning La Liga champions were outplayed from the get-go, with Ronald Araujo’s sending-off only making it harder.

The result leaves Barcelona with very slim chances of securing a top-eight finish, meaning they will likely have to go through the playoff rounds to qualify for the knockout stages.

Change of plans for Barcelona
Now, according to SPORT, Barcelona altered their plan for Wednesday to give their footballers a break.

Hansi Flick’s team had a training session set for 1 pm at the Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper, but the coaching staff decided to cancel it to favour the squad’s physical recovery.

The decision had a clear reason: the lack of rest following the trip from London.

CHELSEA TEENAGE PRODIGY ‘HAS A
SPECIAL AFFECTION’ FOR BARCELONA,
SAYS AGENT

Diary Times Desk : Estevao Willian was one of the stars of the show for Chelsea on Tuesday night as they defeated FC Barcelona 3-0 at Stamford Bridge in the UEFA Champions League.

The 18-year-old Brazilian sensation, who had been a target for Barça in the past, caused a lot of trouble for the Catalans with his movement and capped off his performance with a brilliant goal in the second half.

Estevao still has a special place in his heart for Barcelona
Speaking on Que t’hi Jagues earlier today, Andre Cury, the agent of Estevao, revealed that the youngster still holds a special place in his heart for Barcelona, leaving the door open for a future transfer.

“Estevao has a five-year contract and is enjoying his time at Chelsea. But he has a special affection for Barcelona,” said Cury, who has close ties with the Blaugrana.
“We talked to Barça about Estevao in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. We offered the player because I believed he would have a great future. But Barça were not doing well economically.”

Diary Times Desk : Chelsea were a step above FC Barcelona on Tuesday night as they cruised to a 3-0 win in the UEFA Champions League at Stamford Bridge.

The Blaugrana were never really in the game and were outclassed from start to end, with Ronald Araujo’s sending-off in the first half only making matters worse.

Enzo Maresca delighted with game plan
Speaking to the media after the win, Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca shed light on the game-plan that he had devised to face Barcelona and how it ended up working like a charm.

“I think the feeling with the 11-on-11 game was that we were doing well, controlling the match and not conceding anything,” started Maresca, as quoted by AS.



PREMIER LEAGUE LEGEND
CRITICAL OF BARCELONA
TACTICS AFTER LOSS VS
CHELSEA – ‘IT’S AS IF THERE’S
FOUR DUMMIES JUST STOOD
THERE’

Diary Times Desk : Former Newcastle United striker and Premier League legend Alan Shearer lashed out at FC Barcelona and their high defensive line following the 3-0 defeat to Chelsea last night.

The Blaugrana were never really allowed to get a foot in at Stamford Bridge, with the Blues dominating from start to finish.

A Jules Kounde own goal in the 27th minute gave Chelsea the lead, before second-half strikes from Estevao and Liam Delap secured the victory.

Shearer hits out
Chelsea were able to get behind the Barcelona backline and create openings with great ease, something that Shearer was surprised by.

“They keep on getting done time and time again. Nothing more than Chelsea deserve. They time it to perfection again,” Shearer said on Amazon Prime (h/t Daily Mail).

REASON WHY BARCELONA DID
NOT SIGN CHELSEA
WONDERKID WHO
TORMENTED THEM IN 3-0
LOSS

Diary Times Desk : Tuesday night saw FC Barcelona fall to a 3-0 defeat to Chelsea away at Stamford Bridge, further hindering their chances of securing a top-eight finish in the UEFA Champions League group stage.

The Blaugrana were thoroughly outplayed by Enzo Maresca’s team from the start, with their problems only being compounded by Ronald Araujo’s red card in the first half.

One of the stars that shone the brightest for Chelsea on the night was Brazilian wonderkid Estevao Willian – a name very familiar to Barcelona.

The 18-year-old sensation was a threat going forward and even scored a brilliant goal early in the second half to make it 2-0. However, it could all have been very different for Estevao.

Indeed, as reported by SPORT, Estevao had been closely monitored by Barcelona when he was still at Palmeiras, with his agent, Andre Cury, having strong ties to the Catalan club. Cury’s intention was to first complete the transfer of Vitor Roque to Barça and then start working on Estevao’s move for the following year. He communicated this plan to the Catalans, but in the end, only the striker’s transfer materialised.