

NEWS IN BRIEF

INDIA CROSSES
'MAJOR POWER'
THRESHOLD IN
ASIA POWER INDEX
2025

Diary Times Desk : India has officially entered the ranks of Asia's major powers, according to the 2025 edition of the Asia Power Index released by Australian think tank Lowy Institute.

With a comprehensive power score exceeding 40 points—the threshold for 'major power' status—India now firmly holds third place in the power hierarchy, behind only China and the US.

This marks the second consecutive year India has been ranked third, after overtaking Japan in 2024. However, analysts note that even as India's gains are steady, the gap with China continues to widen, underscoring the challenges ahead in realising New Delhi's long-term vision of a multipolar world order. India recorded clear improvements in both economic and military capabilities this year. The Index noted strong GDP growth, rising international investment inflows, and an improved perception of India's geopolitical relevance, including connectivity and technology.

'MODI JI, INDIA'S
CHILDREN ARE
CHOKING': RAHUL
QUESTIONS PM'S
SILENCE ON AIR
POLLUTION IN
DELHI

Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday demanded a detailed discussion in Parliament on the issue of air pollution in the national capital as he questioned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this "health emergency". He also demanded a strict, enforceable action plan to tackle air pollution and asked why the Modi government was not showing any urgency or accountability on the issue. Gandhi met a few mothers at his residence on the issue and shared a video of his conversation with them. "Every mother I meet tells me the same thing: her child is growing up breathing toxic air. They are exhausted, scared and angry.

"Modi ji, India's children are choking in front of us. How can you stay silent?

PRAVEEN
KUMARITBP CHIEF PRAVEEN KUMAR TO HOLD ADDITIONAL
CHARGE OF BSF

Diary Times Desk : Director General of Indo Tibetan Border Police Praveen Kumar will hold additional charge of Border Security Force once incumbent DG BSF Daljit Singh Chaudhary retires on November 30.

The Ministry of Home Affairs on Friday issued a formal order to this effect.

In an office memorandum, government under-secretary Sanjeev Kumar conveyed approval of the competent authority for assignment of additional charge of the post of DG BSF to DG ITBP Praveen Kumar till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.

Praveen Kumar is a 1993 batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre.

An office memorandum of the MHA mentions the "approval of the competent authority for assignment of additional charge of the post of Director General, Border Security Force (BSF) to Praveen Kumar upon superannuation of Daliit Singh Chaudhary on November 30, 2025, till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders, whichever is earlier."

Kumar assumed charge as DG of ITBP on October 1, 2025.

Prior to heading ITBP, Kumar served in the Intelligence Bureau (IB) for over two decades, earning commendations and gaining experience in both intelligence and field operations.

The BSF -- one of India's largest border-guarding forces responsible for safeguarding frontiers with Pakistan and Bangladesh -- has over 270,000 personnel under its command. The post of DG BSF is among the most critical in the country's security architecture.

The additional charge reflects the government's trust in Kumar's leadership and aims to ensure continuity of command in BSF operations during the transition period.

CARRIER INS VIKRANT ON MAIDEN OVERSEAS DEPLOYMENT

Diary Times Desk : India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant is on its maiden overseas deployment to Sri Lanka.

The carrier has onboard fighter jets, the MiG 29K and helicopters. The INS Vikrant, along with indigenous stealth frigate INS Udaygiri, is representing the Indian Navy at the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025 being hosted by the Sri Lanka Navy in Colombo from November 27 to 29.

At 47,000 tonnes, the INS Vikrant is the biggest warship to be made in India. It was commissioned in September 2022.

The IFR is part of the Sri Lanka Navy's 75th anniversary celebrations and features participation from naval ships, delegations and observers from several countries.

The carrier and both the ships and underscore India's commitment to strengthening regional maritime cooperation.

The maiden participation of INS Vikrant for an International Fleet Review highlights India's continued engagement with partner navies in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and reflects India's emphasis on promoting peace, stability and security through collaboration and interoperability.

FORMER BJP MP, OTHERS FALL AS STAGE
COLLAPSES AT WEDDING IN UP'S BALLIA

Diary Times Desk : Former BJP MP Bharat Singh and more than a dozen guests fell to the ground after the stage on which they were standing during a wedding function collapsed.

A video of the incident has been widely shared on social media since Thursday.

The incident occurred on Wednesday night at the Ramllela Maidan here during the wedding reception of the brother of a local BJP leader, Abhishek Singh Engineer, BJP district president Sanjay Mishra said.

The former BJP MP, Mishra, and around 14 other leaders were on stage to bless the bride and groom when a portion of the stage suddenly gave way, sending them tumbling to the ground.

"All of them are safe. Two people sustained minor injuries," Mishra said on Friday, adding that the stage had not been constructed properly, which led to the collapse.

PM MODI HOLDS ROAD SHOW IN KARNATAKA'S
UDUPI

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a road show in the temple town of Udupi.

Modi landed at the Mangaluru Airport and proceeded to Udupi by a special helicopter.

The Prime Minister arrived here to take part in the "Laksha Geeta Pathana", a mass recitation in which more than one lakh devotees will chant verses from the Bhagavad Gita in unison.

Standing on the running board of his vehicle, the Prime Minister waved at the enthusiastic gathering, which showered his convoy with flower petals.

Modi reciprocated by throwing flowers back at the people waiting on either side of the road.

Saffron festoons and BJP flags dotted the route.

The celebratory atmosphere was further elevated by performances from various cultural troupes that showcased the vibrant traditions of coastal Karnataka.

He is also scheduled to offer prayers at the Sri Krishna temple and receive blessings from the presiding Paryaya Swamiji.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

NEW AI-BASED
FRAMEWORK COULD
CHANGE UNDERSTANDING
OF CANCER, ALTER
TREATMENT STRATEGIES

Diary Times Desk : Indian scientists have developed an artificial intelligence (AI) framework that could change how cancer is understood and treated.

The framework provides a new lens to look at cancer — not by its size or spread alone, but by its molecular personality.

Cancer is not just a disease of growing tumours, but is powered by a set of hidden biological programs called the 'hallmarks of cancer'.

These hallmarks explain how healthy cells turn malignant and how they spread, evade the immune system and resist treatment.

For decades, doctors have relied on staging systems like TNM, which stands for tumour, nodes and metastasis to describe the size and spread of tumours.

But such systems often miss the deeper molecular story as to why two patients with the "same" cancer stage can have very different outcomes.

Scientists of SN Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences and Ashoka University have introduced the first AI framework that can read the 'molecular mind' of cancer and predict its behaviour, according to the Ministry of Science and Technology.

'REMOVE 18% GST ON AIR
PURIFIERS': KEJRIWAL TO
CENTRE

Diary Times Desk : Former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday demanded that the Central Government immediately remove 18 per cent GST imposed on air and water purifiers, in view of the worsening air quality in Delhi-NCR.

In a post on X in Hindi, he stressed that clean air and clean water are the basic rights of every citizen.

"In Delhi and across North India, the air has become deadly. Instead of providing solutions, the government is collecting more taxes from the public," he said in the post.

He further pointed that when people go to buy air purifiers to protect their families from pollution, they find that the government is charging 18 per cent GST on them, which is outright injustice. The AAP supreme demanded that the Centre immediately remove the GST imposed on air and water purifiers.



INDIA, US SIGN MILITARY CONTRACT; THEIR FIRST SINCE
TARIFF AND TRADE ISSUES VITIATED RELATIONS



Diary Times Desk : India and the US have signed a military contract, their first since trade and tariff issues affected relations earlier this year. The Ministry of Defence signed the 'letters of offer and acceptance' with the US for sustainment support of the Indian Navy's MH-60R helicopters, worth Rs 7,995 crore.

This contract comes a week after the US Department of Defence approved two separate sales worth USD 92.8 million for India: Excalibur artillery ammunition and Javelin anti-tank missiles, pending US Congress approval. The MH-60R sustainment programme includes spares, support equipment, training, and technical support, aiming to boost operational availability and maintainability. India has sourced 24 MH-60R helicopters, produced by Lockheed Martin, for USD 2.6 billion, with deliveries starting in 2011.

SC ASKS LAW COMMISSION TO
EXAMINE REPRESENTATION
AGAINST APPLICABILITY OF
HINDU LAWS TO BUDDHISTS

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday asked the Law Commission to examine a petition/representation of a Buddhist group questioning the applicability of personal Hindu laws to Buddhists as the organisation contended it went against their fundamental rights, particularly the right to freedom to practise religion.

Article 25 of the Constitution includes Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs within the definition of "Hindu" for the purposes of these laws.

An explanation to Article 25 says, "...Hindus shall be construed as including a reference to persons professing the Sikh, Jaina or Buddhist religion, and the reference to Hindu religious institutions shall be construed accordingly."

IN A FIRST, INDIA TO HOST UNESCO MEET ON INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM DEC 8-13 AT RED FORT

Diary Times Desk : In a first, India is set to host a UNESCO meeting on safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage from December 8-13 at the historic Red Fort in Delhi, and preparations are underway for the key event.

A senior official of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) on Friday said the 17th-century fort complex will be closed from December 5-14 in view of the event.

Built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as the palace fort of his capital Shahjahanabad, the Red Fort complex is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a centrally protected monument. The twentieth session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage will take place from December 8-13 in New Delhi, UNESCO has said.

DELHI POLICE NAB 'PSYCHO KILLER' WHO SLASHED
WOMAN'S FACE, HEAD AND DUMPED BODY IN BUSHES

Diary Times Desk : A 23-year-old man, who allegedly stabbed a mentally challenged woman on her face and head and later dumped her body in the bushes near a railway station, was arrested following an intensive manhunt, officials said on Friday.

The accused, who the Delhi Police describes as a "psycho killer", was arrested from Gujarat, they said.

Salman, alias Bona, was tracked down with the help of CCTV footage and a pair of slippers he had left at the crime spot, an official said.

On November 16, police received information that a woman's body was lying in some shrubs behind Adarsh Nagar Railway Station. The deceased, later identified as Seejan, was a rag picker and resident of Metro Vihar in Holambi Kalan, he said. According to the police, the semi-naked body bore deep cut wounds on the face and head, apparently inflicted with a knife.



AHMEDABAD-BOUND AIR INDIA PLANE
RETURNS TO DELHI DUE TO SUSPECTED
SMOKE INDICATION

Diary Times Desk : An Ahmedabad-bound Air India plane returned to the Delhi airport on Thursday evening due to suspected smoke in the cargo hold area, according to sources.

After checks, the smoke indication was found to be false, sources said.

The Delhi-Ahmedabad flight AI2939, operated with an Airbus A320 aircraft, had around 170 people on board, they added.

An airline official said the aircraft returned to Delhi shortly after take-off due to a smoke indication, which was later found to be false after the aircraft underwent thorough precautionary checks.

DELHI POLICE DETAIN 40 FOREIGN
NATIONALS LINKED TO DRUG SUPPLY
MODULE; NARCOTICS WORTH 12 CRORE
SEIZED

Diary Times Desk : Ten alleged drug peddlers, including three foreign nationals, were arrested in Delhi-NCR for running a network that supplied narcotics to Telangana through courier services, police said on Friday.

According to police, the transnational drug cartel run predominantly by African nationals would conceal contraband in the collar of the shirts they couriered.

The cartel was busted in a joint operation by the Delhi and Telangana Police, in coordination with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in the last 24 hours, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime) Surender Kumar said at a press conference.

Forty foreign nationals linked to the network have also been detained for deportation proceedings, he said. Three months ago, Telangana Police busted a drug supply module in Hyderabad, uncovering a network that used courier services to transport narcotics.

SC SEEKS RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE ON PLEA CHALLENGING VALIDITY OF ANTI-CONVERSION LAW

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday issued notice to the Rajasthan Government on a petition challenging the validity of the Rajasthan Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2025.

A Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta asked the Rajasthan Government to respond to the petition filed by the Peoples Union for Civil Liberties and others and clubbed it with other petitions raising similar issues.

The petitioners have sought a declaration that provisions of the Act are "arbitrary, unreasonable, illegal and ultra vires" the Constitution and also violative of Articles, including Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 21 (Right to Life and Liberty).

On November 17, the top court had asked the Rajasthan government and others to respond to another petition challenging the validity of the Act.

CYCLONE BATTERS SRI LANKA; PM MODI ANNOUNCES ASSISTANCE UNDER 'OPERATION SAGAR BANDHU'

Diary Times Desk : India on Friday delivered essential relief supplies to cyclone-battered Sri Lanka with Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveying to the island nation that New Delhi stands ready provide more aid to it to deal with the situation.

New Delhi launched 'Operation Sagar Bandhu' to assist Sri Lanka in its hour of crisis and the first tranche of relief materials were handed after the consignments were transported by Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and frontline ship INS Udaigiri.

At least 56 people have been killed in Sri Lanka due to floods and landslides.

Over 43,900 people from 12,313 families have been hit by the extreme weather conditions, according to Sri Lankan authorities.

"My heartfelt condolences to the people of Sri Lanka who have lost their loved ones due to Cyclone Dittwah. I pray for the safety, comfort and swift recovery of all affected families," Modi said on social media.

MODI UNVEILS 77-FOOT-TALL BRONZE STATUE OF LORD RAM IN GOA



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the path to Viksit Bharat "goes through people's unity", adding that "India today is experiencing a cultural renaissance". "When the society unites, when each sector stands together, then the country makes a big leap," Modi said, addressing a gathering after unveiling a 77-foot-tall bronze statue of Lord Ram in Goa, as part of Shree Samsthan Gokarn Jeevottam Mutt's 550th year celebrations. "Today, India is experiencing a cultural renaissance. The restoration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, the extensive renovation of the Kashi Vishwanath Dham, and the expansion of the Mahakal Mahalok in Ujjain all exemplify the nation's renewed awareness and vigorous revival of its spiritual heritage," Modi said.

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN TO VISIT INDIA ON DECEMBER 4-5

Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin will be in India on December 4 and 5 for the annual leaders' summit meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Vladimir Putin will pay a state visit to India from December 4-5 for the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit," the Ministry of External Affairs said on Friday.

President Droupadi Murmu will host a banquet in President Putin's honour.

The visit will provide an opportunity to the leadership of India and Russia to review progress in bilateral relations, set the vision for strengthening the 'Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership' and exchange views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, the MEA said.

DELHI BLAST: 'PLAN WAS TO RECRUIT WOMEN IN TERROR MODULE,' REVEALS DR SHAHEEN

Diary Times Desk : Dr Shaheen Saeed, a former doctor at Al-Falah University and an accused in Faridabad's white-collar terror module linked to the Delhi blast, revealed that her mission was to create a terrorist module to spread terror in the country.

She had also planned to recruit women for this purpose, as they "are easier to manipulate". NIA and police sources said that she revealed this while she was being taken to the university campus by the investigation agency late last evening. Investigation revealed that Dr Muzammil and Dr Shaheen had married in Khorl Jamulpur village where Muzammil had rented the house of Jumma Khan, former sarpanch of the village, solely for the wedding (nikah). Around 10-12 persons, including Dr Umar, were present at the ceremony. Shaheen revealed their names to the investigating agency.

HIGH GDP RATES NOT SUSTAINABLE IN ABSENCE OF MOMENTUM IN PVT INVESTMENT: CONGRESS

Diary Times Desk : Taking a swipe at the government over the latest GDP rates, the Congress on Friday said the numbers continued to be disappointing and asserted that high growth rates were simply not sustainable in the absence of any renewed momentum in private investment. The opposition party's jibe came after the Indian economy recorded a six-quarter high growth of 8.2 per cent in July-September. Congress general secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said it was ironic that the quarterly GDP numbers had been released soon after an IMF report gave the second-lowest grade of 'C' to India's national accounts statistics in its annual assessment of the Indian economy. "The numbers continue to be disappointing. There has been no upswing in Gross Fixed Capital Formation. High GDP growth rates are simply not sustainable in the absence of any renewed momentum in private investment.

SIR EXERCISE: 2 MORE BLO DEATHS IN GUJARAT, BENGAL; TMC SAYS CEC HAS 'BLOOD ON HIS HANDS'

Diary Times Desk : Two primary school teachers deployed as booth-level officers in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls died of cardiac arrest in West Bengal's Murshidabad and Gujarat's Mehsana, sparking accusations of tremendous work pressure on them.

With West Bengal reporting the fourth (booth-level officer) BLO death since the exercise began in the state on November 4, a Trinamool Congress delegation on Friday met the full bench of the Election Commission in Delhi and accused the poll panel chief of having "blood on his hands".

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav also made a fresh attack on EC over SIR, claiming it was a "big conspiracy" against the people of the country that could push citizens into a state "worse than the colonial era".



**DEATH TOLL FROM FLOODS,
LANDSLIDES ON INDONESIA'S
SUMATRA RISES TO 164****Diary Times Desk :**

The death toll from flash floods and landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island rose to 164 on Friday with 79 people missing, authorities said, as rescue workers found their efforts hampered by damaged bridges and roads and a lack of heavy equipment.

Monsoon rains caused rivers to burst their banks in North Sumatra province Tuesday. The deluge tore through mountainside villages, swept away people and submerged more than 3,200 houses and buildings, National Disaster Management Agency said.

About 3,000 displaced families fled to government shelters.

The death toll in North Sumatra province rose to 116, while 25 persons died in Aceh. Rescuers also retrieved 23 bodies in West Sumatra, National Disaster Mitigation Agency's chief Suharyanto said.

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At least 56 people have been killed in Sri Lanka due to floods and landslides. Over 43,900 people from 12,313 families have been hit by the extreme weather conditions, according to Sri Lankan authorities.

**IN WAKE OF DC SHOOTING, TRUMP VOWS INDEFINITE HALT TO
IMMIGRATION FROM 'THIRD WORLD' COUNTRIES**

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Friday said he will "permanently pause" migration from all "third world" countries and deport foreign nationals who are a "security risk" as his administration intensified crackdown on immigration in the wake of the killing of a National Guard member by an Afghan national.'

The Trump administration has announced a sweeping review of all Green Cards issued to immigrants from 19 "countries of concern," following the Washington, DC, shooting that left two US service members dead or critically injured.

The suspect, Afghan national Rahmanullah Lakanwal, had entered the US through a Biden-era resettlement programme for Afghans.

Trump says he plans to impose an indefinite halt on immigration from "third world" countries, saying, "you won't be here for long".

**BAMBOO SCAFFOLDING HELPED BUILD
HONG KONG'S SKYLINE, BUT DEADLY
FIRE MAY HASTEN ITS END**

Diary Times Desk : While the exact cause of the deadly inferno that swept across a Hong Kong apartment complex was unknown, questions have been raised about the role of the bamboo scaffolding that enveloped the buildings at the time of the fire. The blaze, which has left at least 94 dead, has focused attention on the use of the ancient construction technique used for more than 1,000 years. Bamboo poles lashed together using wire and other strong materials are often found at construction sites in Asia, and the scaffolding is commonly seen around Hong Kong. Officials said Wednesday's fire started on the external scaffolding of a 32-storey tower, spread to the inside of the building and then to six other towers, likely aided by windy conditions. Officials are investigating why the scaffolding and other construction materials used in renovations to the exteriors of the buildings caught fire.

**HONG KONG FIREFIGHTERS MAKE FINAL
SEARCH FOR SURVIVORS AFTER
APARTMENT TOWER BLAZE KILLS 128**

Diary Times Desk : Hong Kong firefighters searched through a high-rise tower complex apartment-by-apartment Friday for more victims after a massive fire engulfed seven of its eight buildings, killing at least 128 people in one of the city's deadliest blazes.

Crews were prioritising apartments from which they received more than two dozen calls for assistance during the blaze, but were unable to reach, Derek Armstrong Chan, a deputy director of Hong Kong Fire Services, told reporters.

The toll rose Friday afternoon to 128 after more bodies were found in the blackened towers.

Secretary for Security Chris Tang told reporters at the scene that the search for victims was continuing and the numbers could still rise.

The fire started mid-afternoon Wednesday in one of the Wang Fuk Court complex's eight towers, jumping rapidly from one to the next as bamboo scaffolding covered in netting in place for renovations caught ablaze until seven buildings were engulfed.

**IMRAN KHAN 'DEAD OR
ALIVE'? SON DEMANDS
PROOF OF LIFE AMID 'DEATH
IN PAKISTAN JAIL'
RUMOURS**

Diary Times Desk : Rumours surrounding the alleged death of Pakistan's jailed former prime minister Imran Khan have circulated online for days, following an unverified Afghan media report claiming he was killed inside Adiala Jail.

In response, his son Kasim Khan has publicly demanded proof that his father is alive as well as his immediate release. In a post on X, Kasim noted that his father has been in detention for 845 days, and for the past six weeks has allegedly been held in a death cell with no family contact.

"For the past six weeks, he has been kept alone in a death cell in complete isolation," Kasim wrote. "His sisters have been barred from meetings despite court orders. No phone calls, no visits, and no information about his well-being. My brother and I have had no contact with him whatsoever."

**TRUMP SAYS ONE OF 2 WEST
VIRGINIA NATIONAL GUARD
MEMBERS SHOT BY AFGHAN
NATIONAL HAS DIED**

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump said that one of the two West Virginia National Guard members shot by an Afghan national near the White House had died, calling the shooter who had worked with the CIA in his native country a "savage monster."

As part of his Thanksgiving call to US troops, Trump said that he had just learned that Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, had died, while Staff Sgt Andrew Wolfe, 24, was "fighting for his life."

"She's just passed away," Trump said. "She's no longer with us. She's looking down at us right now. Her parents are with her."

The president called Beckstrom an "incredible person, outstanding in every single way."

Trump used the announcement to say the shooting was a "terrorist attack" as he criticised the Biden administration for enabling Afghans who worked with US forces during the Afghanistan War to enter the US.

The president has deployed National Guard members in part to assist in his administration's mass deportation efforts.



COURT BARS CARMICHAEL MINE ACTIVIST FROM PURSUING ADANI'S
CONFIDENTIAL DATA



Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court of Queensland has issued permanent orders preventing an anti-fossil-fuel activist from seeking or using confidential information belonging to Adani's Carmichael coal mines in Australia, concluding a multi-year legal dispute between the company and one of its most persistent opponents.

Under the orders, Ben Pennings must cease all attempts to obtain confidential business information from Bravus employees, contractors or prospective contractors, and is barred from encouraging others to disclose such information, according to a statement issued by Bravus Mining and Resources. Bravus, part of the Adani Group, agreed not to pursue its legal costs.

The firm operates the Carmichael coal mine in the Galilee Basin. It produces about 10 million tonnes of coal each year for the export market.

The permanent orders prohibit Pennings from seeking or promoting the disclosure of confidential information, including through "direct action" campaigns aimed at eliciting insider leaks. They do not restrict his ability to engage in lawful protest or advocacy.

Bravus had lodged a civil claim against Pennings, the national spokesperson for the group Galilee Blockade, alleging he sought to disrupt the operations of the Carmichael coalmine, its suppliers and contractors.

Its chief operating officer, Mick Crowe, welcomed the outcome, saying the company's objective had always been to stop conduct it characterised as harassment and intimidation.

JUSTICE S MURALIDHAR TO HEAD
UN'S INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION
INTO GAZA CONFLICT, SYSTEMIC
ABUSES

Diary Times Desk : Odisha High Court's former chief justice and senior counsel Dr S Muralidhar has been appointed chair of the United Nation's 'Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel'.

The announcement was made by Human Rights Council president Ambassador Jürg Lauber, placing an Indian jurist at the forefront of one of the UN's most scrutinised investigations amid continuing violence and geopolitical tensions in the region.

GREEN CARD HOPE TO HANDCUFFED REALITY: TROUBLE FOR US NATIONALS' SPOUSES

Diary Times Desk : The foreign-born spouses of several US citizens have been detained during green card interviews, the US media has reported. Dozens of such detentions have been made since November 12 at the immigration office in San Diego. The spouses were also reportedly charged with violating visa norms.

The green card, or the permanent residency card, allows an immigrant to live and work in the US permanently. For many newly married couples, getting a green card meant a new beginning together in the US.

But the San Diego experience wasn't what they expected. Among those detained included British and German nationals and even a new mother with a five-month-old baby. After each interview, the New York Times reported, federal agents swooped in and took the foreign spouse away in handcuffs.

"I had to take our baby from my crying wife's arms," said Stephen Paul, whose British wife, Katie, was detained. "It's insane to have them rip our family apart." Katie was taken to a detention centre while her husband had to apply for leave at his job to care for the baby, while trying to secure her release alongside.

NET MIGRATION TO UK DROPS 70%, BUT
INDIANS STILL LARGEST GROUP TO
IMMIGRATE TO COUNTRY

Diary Times Desk : Net migration to the UK fell to its lowest level since the pandemic, a boost for Keir Starmer's Labour government as it comes under intense pressure to curb the number of foreign nationals coming to the country.

Some 204,000 more people came to the UK for a long-term stay than departed in the 12 months through June, the Office for National Statistics said Thursday.

That's less than a third of 649,000 figure for the same period a year earlier. Arrivals from outside the European Union fell sharply and EU and British citizens left the country on balance.



PAKISTAN'S ASBM CLAIM
RAISES MORE QUESTIONS
THAN ANSWERS: WHAT THE
SMASH TEST REALLY MEANS
FOR INS VIKRANT

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's announcement this week that it has successfully test-fired a "ship-launched anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM)" has triggered a wave of excitement across its domestic defense ecosystem. The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) confirmed the launch, stating that an "indigenously developed" missile had successfully engaged sea and land targets "with high precision" in a test witnessed by the Naval Chief, senior officials, engineers and scientists. Beyond this, few details were provided.

Yet, within hours, the relatively sparse official statement was overwhelmed by an aggressive online narrative. Pro-Pakistan portals and social-media accounts began promoting the missile as a Mach-8 hypersonic carrier-killer capable of reaching 700–850 km and threatening India's aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

ISRAELI FORCES KILL AT
LEAST 10 IN SOUTHERN
SYRIA RAID

Diary Times Desk : Israeli forces in southern Syria raided a village and opened fire when they were confronted by residents on Friday, killing at least 10, Syrian media and officials said, as Israel fights on a number of fronts while the shaky ceasefire in Gaza moves forward.

The Syrian state news agency SANA said Israeli forces entered the village of Beit Jin, aiming to detain local men and opened heavy fire after protests by residents. Dozens of families fled the area.

Israel said on Friday it conducted an operation following intelligence information to apprehend suspects from Jamaa Islamiya, or Islamic Group, operating in Beit Jin to attack Israeli civilians. During the raid, several militants fired at Israeli troops, injuring half a dozen soldiers who were evacuated to a hospital, the military said.

Israeli troops fired at the militants and also responded with aerial assistance, the military said. It said the operation had concluded, all of the suspects were apprehended, and a number of militants were killed.

Israel has regarded the new authorities in the Syrian warily since the fall of former President Bashar Assad in a lightning offensive led by Islamist insurgents in December 2024. Since Assad's fall, Israeli forces have seized a formerly UN-patrolled buffer zone in southern Syria set up under a 1974 disengagement agreement.

TRUMP’S G-20 AT HIS MIAMI GOLF RESORT WILL BE AN INVITE-ONLY EVENT

Diary Times Desk : When Donald Trump welcomes the Group of 20 to his private golf resort in Miami next year, he'll decide who's on the guest list.

That much is clear after the US president said in a social media post Wednesday that he won't invite South Africa, the holder of this year's G-20 presidency and the object of the US president's ire for some time now.

It may be a breach of long-established protocol for a leader to decide which of the bloc's members can attend the summit - let alone to host the event at their own hotel - but Trump has demonstrated that he cares little for either convention or the multilateral order.

Now, questions over who will and who won't go are starting to pile up, not least over which nation might make up the numbers. The move puts other G-20 members in a bind: ignore the insult and make the trip anyway, or stand in solidarity and risk the full force of a Trump blowback in trade tariffs, technology embargoes or worse.



POPE: NICAEA INVITES CHRISTIANS TO UNITY IN FACE OF VIOLENCE, CONFLICT

Diary Times Desk : At the site of ancient Nicaea, Pope Leo XIV joined around 27 other leaders of Christian Churches to commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council in the Church's history.

The ecumenical prayer service took place on the second day of the Pope's Apostolic Journey to Türkiye.

In his address, the Pope thanked Patriarch Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, for his "great wisdom and foresight" in calling for Church leaders to celebrate this important anniversary together. He also expressed appreciation to the Heads of Churches and Representatives of Christian World Communions for attending the event. The Symbol of Faith, as it is known, was of "fundamental importance in the journey that Christians are making towards full communion."

DONALD TRUMP USES SHOCKING SLUR IN LATE-NIGHT THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

Diary Times Desk : Donald Trump used a late-night Thanksgiving message to deploy an offensive slur against a political rival before announcing he wants to pause migration from all "Third World Countries."

Trump began his rambling post with a happy Thanksgiving greeting, but it quickly devolved into an anti-immigration ragepost, blaming "American Citizens and Patriots who have been so nice in allowing our Country to be divided, disrupted, carved up."

Trump said he would "permanently pause migration" from "all Third World Countries" in the wake of the fatal shooting in Washington, D.C., in which the suspected gunman is an Afghan national.

TRUMP MAY 'COMPLETELY CUT' INCOME TAX, SAYS TARIFF REVENUE CAN FOOT THE BILL

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump on Thursday said that his administration may cut income tax sharply for the Americans, and possibly "cutting it altogether", in the next few years, suggesting that the revenue coming from tariffs would make up for the loss.

Tariff revenue 'is going to be large' Speaking to the US military service members on a video call, Trump suggested this major change in tax policy saying that the government could afford deep income-tax cuts. "Over the next couple of years, I think we'll substantially be cutting and maybe cutting out completely, but we'll be cutting income tax. Could be almost completely cutting it because the money we're taking in is going to be so large," he said.

THIRTEEN KILLED IN DEADLIEST ISRAELI RAID FOR MONTHS IN SOUTHERN SYRIA

Diary Times Desk :At least 13 people have been killed in an Israeli raid on a village in southern Syria overnight, state media reported, in one of the deadliest incidents of its kind for months. It said children were among the dead.

Sana news agency said residents of Beit Jinn "confronted" Israeli troops, leading to a firefight. Air strikes were also carried out. Syria's foreign ministry condemned what it called a "war crime" by Israel. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said troops went into the village, on the edge of the occupied Golan Heights, to detain militants who it said "advanced terror attacks against Israeli civilians".

Six Israeli soldiers were injured in the clashes, three seriously, it said.

The IDF said it targeted the Jamaa Islamiya militant group in Friday's operation. It said that when the raid began, "several armed terrorists opened fire" on its soldiers, who fired back.

Sana said the village was also shelled. Footage released by the IDF shows two air strikes - one apparently on a group of people, and the other on a building. In bodycam footage also released by the IDF, soldiers can be seen firing on a street in the dark with the sound of automatic gunfire in the distance.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a UK-based monitoring group, said a building collapsed during the operation.

LOUVRE MUSEUM TO HIKE ENTRANCE FEE BY 45% FOR NON-EUROPEAN VISITORS



Diary Times Desk : A visit to the Louvre museum in Paris is set to become significantly more expensive for travelers from outside Europe, with officials announcing plans to hike the price of tickets by 45%.

From January 14, 2026, an individual ticket for visitors from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) - a grouping of nations that comprises the European Union member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway - will cost 32 euros (\$37), a spokesperson for the Louvre told CNN on Friday.

Those visiting as part of a group with a guide will have to pay 28 euros (\$32.40) per person. The price increases are expected to bring in an extra 15-20 million euros (around \$17-23 million) a year, which will be invested in "modernising and upgrading the Louvre to address structural issues facing the museum," the spokesperson said. Built from the late 12th century onwards, the Louvre Palace was the official residence of the kings of France for centuries. Louis XIV's decision to move his court to Versailles, on the outskirts of the French capital, allowed for the establishment of the Louvre Museum in 1793.

EIGHT MORE ARRESTED OVER FIRE IN HONG KONG THAT KILLED AT LEAST 128 PEOPLE

Diary Times Desk : At least 128 people are now known to have died in a devastating fire that engulfed multiple high-rise buildings in Hong Kong.

Eight people have been arrested on suspicion of corruption over the renovation works the blocks had been undergoing before the fire. Three others were detained earlier on manslaughter charges.

The cause of the fire remains unclear, though officials said that polystyrene and protective netting placed on the outside of the windows facilitated its spread.

A further 79 people were injured in the blaze - the city's deadliest in more than 70 years. Dozens remain missing.

Police went into the buildings to start gathering evidence, after authorities said that an investigation would take place over the next three to four weeks.

IMRAN KHAN'S SON KASIM MADE NEWS AMID DEATH RUMOURS. ALL WE KNOW ABOUT HIM

Diary Times Desk : Kasim Khan, the younger son of Pakistan's former Prime Minister and legendary cricketer Imran Khan, has made headlines after he accused the Pakistani government authorities of denying him and his family access to Khan for over a month and urged human rights organisations to intervene. Kasim has said Khan is in complete isolation and warned that the Pakistan government will be responsible for every consequence.

Who Is Kasim Khan

Kasim Khan is the son of Imran Khan and his former wife, British journalist Jemima Goldsmith. Born in 1999, Kasim is the younger brother of Sulaiman Isa Khan and spent his early childhood in Pakistan before moving to London after their parents separated. He has studied anthropology and innovation at the University of Bristol in the UK. In 2023, after graduating from the university, he founded Mifu, a platform that connects influencers with brands and helps them monetise their content.

TRUMP PAUSES IMMIGRATION FROM 'THIRD WORLD' COUNTRIES: WHAT THAT MEANS

Diary Times Desk : United States President Donald Trump has sharply escalated his crackdown on immigration with an announcement of a "permanent pause" on migration from "all Third World Countries" late on Thursday.

The president's remarks came a day after two National Guard members were shot - one of whom has since died from her injuries - in Washington, DC, on Wednesday. An Afghan national has been named as the primary suspect.

"I will permanently pause migration from all Third World Countries to allow the US system to fully recover, terminate all of the millions of Biden illegal admissions," Trump wrote in a post on his Truth Social platform.

He did not specify what "third world" means and did not name any countries. But the phrase "third world" generally refers to Global South countries that are economically still developing or economically disadvantaged.

He also said "anyone who is not a net asset to the United States, or is incapable of loving our Country", will be removed from the US.

Trump added that all federal benefits and subsidies to "noncitizens" will end, and he will "denaturalise migrants who undermine domestic tranquillity, and deport any foreign national who is a public charge, security risk, or non-compatible with Western civilisation".

KHALEDA ZIA'S HEALTH 'EXTREMELY CRITICAL', BANGLADESH NATIONALIST PARTY CALLS FOR NATIONWIDE PRAYERS

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia is battling what party leaders describe as her most severe health crisis yet.

The 80-year-old leader, long regarded as a central figure in the country's political shifts, was admitted to hospital on Sunday night with a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs.

BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the situation worsened through the week. "Last night, the doctors said that her physical condition is extremely critical," he told the state-run BSS news agency.

Across Bangladesh, party workers gathered for special prayers after Friday prayers. Fakhrul said the party had reached out to citizens as well.

FLOOD DEATHS RISE TO 174 IN INDONESIA, SURGE ACROSS SOUTHEAST ASIA

Diary Times Desk : The death toll from floods and landslides on the western Indonesian island of Sumatra this week has risen to 174, a disaster official said, with about 80 more people still missing, as a punishing tropical storm system and heavy monsoon rains have battered the region.

"As of this afternoon, we have recorded that for the entire North Sumatra province, there have been 116 deaths and 42 people are still being searched for," National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) chief Suharyanto announced on Friday.

He said another 35 were killed in the island's Aceh province and another 23 in West Sumatra.

While the rain had stopped, 79 people were still missing and thousands of families were displaced, he added.

Residents in Sumatra's Padang Pariaman region, where a total of 22 people died, had to cope with water levels at least 1 metre (3.3ft) high, and had still not been reached by search and rescue personnel on Friday.

NATIONAL GUARD MEMBER DIES AFTER SHOOTING IN WASHINGTON DC

Diary Times Desk : One of the two members of the National Guard who were shot in Washington DC on Wednesday has died, US President Donald Trump said.

Sarah Beckstrom, 20, died from her injuries while the second National Guard member, 24-year-old Andrew Wolfe, "is fighting for his life", Trump said on Thursday evening.

Both were shot at close range near Farragut Square in downtown DC just after 14:00 EST (19:00 GMT) on Wednesday. Police have arrested one suspect in the shooting, Rahmanullah Lakanwal, a 29-year-old from Afghanistan.

On Friday, the US attorney for Washington DC announced the initial charges of assault against the suspect will be upgraded to "murder in the first degree".

"It is a premeditated murder. There was an ambush with a gun toward people who didn't know what was coming," Jeanine Pirro told Fox and Friends. "And that is the homicide, and that is the murder that we're looking at right now."

The two soldiers who were attacked had been deployed to the American capital as part of the Trump administration's efforts to crack down on what it sees as rampant crime in several US cities.

Trump confirmed Ms Beckstrom's death while on a Thanksgiving call with US service members.



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.

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."



AT SOME FOOD BANKS, SURGING DEMAND MEANS A STRUGGLE TO FEED FAMILIES

Diary Times Desk : In Polk County, Iowa, the Urbandale Food Pantry started giving out turkeys and Thanksgiving sides weeks ago. Demand was so high, with over 2,000 families visiting so far this month, that the pantry ran through its allotment of Thanksgiving staples.

Fortunately, additional funding, including donations from the community, meant the pantry could continue to supply Thanksgiving items.

But the high demand at Urbandale is emblematic of what many food pantries and organizations are seeing this year: increased need, as high prices squeeze Americans' wallets and many families are still recovering from the interruption in SNAP benefits because of the government shutdown.

"This month has been unlike anything we've seen," Patty Sneddon-Kisting, the pantry's CEO and only full-time employee, told CNN.

Food prices have been a source of stress for many Americans this holiday season. Grocery prices gained 1.4% between January and September, and US consumer prices have risen 1.7% on average this year, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



WHAT BUBBLE? THE ANALYSTS AND INVESTORS MAKING THE BULL CASE FOR AI

Diary Times Desk : Chipmaker Nvidia posted yet another blockbuster earnings report this month.

The stock fell anyway, as many investors worry that the market is in the middle of an about-to-burst AI bubble.

But for AI's biggest believers, the report was just another sign that the industry's train isn't running out of steam anytime soon.

"Fears of an AI Bubble are way overstated in our view," Wedbush analyst Dan Ives wrote in a note last week. The Nvidia earnings report "is another validation point for the AI Revolution and (in) our view we are in the Top of the 3rd inning of this AI game."

The possibility of an AI bubble has loomed over the tech industry and Wall Street for years, but worries have ramped up sharply this year.



Massive AI infrastructure spending, a string of circular deals among a few key big tech companies and seemingly endless rhetoric about AI's world-changing potential – with little profit to show for it – have sparked concerns that we're in for another dot-com-style bubble bursting.

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 Cenali, 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.



COULD THIS FINALLY BE SEARS' LAST BLACK FRIDAY?

Diary Times Desk :
 Sears, once America's largest and most important retailer, could very be going into its last Christmas shopping season. The Sears chain had 2,000 stores as recently as 20 years ago and more than 200 stores when it emerged from bankruptcy in 1919. Now it has just five, after three more closings this past year. One standalone store in Coral Gables, Florida, could be torn down to build 1,000 housing units. Another four operate in malls – in Braintree, Massachusetts; Concord, California; El Paso, Texas; and Orlando Florida. All those malls are owned by Simon Property Group, the nation's largest mall operator. The company, once the Walmart and Amazon of its day, helped change America, from how people shopped to where they lived and more.

THE GLOBAL AI RACE IS SUPERCHARGING TAIWAN'S ECONOMY. BUT MANY DON'T FEEL BETTER OFF

Diary Times Desk :
 For proof that an economy can thrive even under constant military threats from a powerful neighbor and amid US President Donald Trump's sweeping global tariffs, look no further than Taiwan. The self-ruled democracy has logged roughly 8% economic growth for two consecutive quarters, a rare achievement for a developed economy and one that is projected to push its 2025 GDP growth close to 7.4%, even surpassing China's. "Taiwan's economy has clearly been one of the best performing economies in the world, particularly over recent quarters," said Jason Tuvey, an economist at Capital Economics. "Many people expected Taiwan's economy to benefit from the sort of AI boom, but maybe many underestimated to what extent it would do."

Taiwan's statistics bureau on Friday reported 8.21% year-on-year growth in GDP in the third quarter, driven by a 36.5% surge in exports in the period ending September. This followed an already striking 7.7% expansion in the second quarter. In October, exports hit a record high, climbing 49.7% from a year earlier – the largest single month increase in over 15 years.

ORBÁN MEETS PUTIN IN MOSCOW TO SHORE UP HUNGARY'S ENERGY SUPPLIES, MAKING USE OF TRUMP EXEMPTION

Diary Times Desk :
 Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow Friday to shore up Hungary's energy supplies and discuss efforts to end the war in Ukraine.

Having spurned chances to reduce its dependence on Russian fossil fuels, Hungary was facing a violent economic shock after the Trump administration last month imposed sanctions on Russia's two biggest oil producers.

Before the sanctions were announced, Orbán had warned that, without energy imports from Russia, Hungary's economy would be brought "to its knees."

But Orbán, a hard-right populist and a darling of the MAGA movement, was spared that shock after US President Donald Trump granted Hungary a one-year exemption from the sanctions, saying it had been "difficult" for his ally to wean the country off Russian oil since it is landlocked.



YOUR FAVORITE PASTA COULD SOON GET A LOT MORE EXPENSIVE. HERE'S WHY



Diary Times Desk : Greg Bettinelli discovered Pasta Rummo on his honeymoon in Florence in 2002, at a time when the brand was nearly impossible to find in the United States. He and his wife stuffed their suitcases with as much of it as they could carry.

These days, the Italian pasta brand can be bought from major retailers like Target and Whole Foods. Still, Bettinelli is stocking up again, fearing his favorite pasta brand will disappear from American shelves or skyrocket in price when tariffs of more than 100% are set to take effect on over a dozen Italian pasta makers next year.

Bettinelli's fears aren't unjustified. Dozens of grocery staples have gotten pricier this year due to inflation and the Trump administration's significant tariffs. Even as President Donald Trump moved earlier this month to cut tariffs on some foods to ease costs, they still could chip away at a budget-friendly meal option: a plate of pasta.

If the tariffs go into effect, pasta shipments from the impacted Italian companies would be "virtually wiped out," warned Coldiretti, the largest farming association in Italy, in a statement translated from Italian. The 13 companies collectively represent 16% of Italian pasta exports to the United States, according to the US Commerce Department.

But if Italian pasta is hit with 107% tariffs, as the Trump administration plans, the fewer options Americans have left could be even more expensive.

"There is no way we can absorb (the tariffs) in our price structure," said Claudio Constantini, general manager at Pastificio Sgambaro, one of the 13 Italian companies facing tariffs.

Constantini said Sgambaro will try to maintain exports to the US, for now. "But if the picture does not change, it will not work for long," he said.

Sgambaro, a family-owned company, mostly sells its products in smaller Italian grocers in the United States. But it had hoped to expand in 2026. Constantini said those plans are now in limbo.

"It felt like you were eating outside in Tuscany, but it's just a \$4 pasta," Bettinelli said of Italian-made pasta. "It was an affordable luxury. Why can't we have nice things?"

6-TONNE
'PANCHJANYA' CONCH
A HUGE DRAW AT
JYOTISAR IN
KURUKSHETRA

Diary Times Desk : The Panchjanya Memorial, based on Lord Krishna's sacred conch, installed at the Mahabharata-themed Anubhav Kendra at Jyotisar in Kurukshetra is the latest attraction for devotees and visitors.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his Kurukshetra visit on Tuesday, inaugurated the memorial, a tribute to the sacred conch. The PM also toured Anubhav Kendra.

Naresh Kumar Kumawat, the artist behind this monumental work, said, "It has been one of the most demanding and inspiring artistic journeys of my career. I am fortunate to get the opportunity to build the Panchjanya, one of the Ratnas that emerged from the Samudra Manthan. The time-bound project required seamless coordination at every stage, including designing, modelling, casting, assembling, finishing, transporting and installation, all executed with precision and devotion.

HARYANA GOVT
DOCTORS SHUT OPDS
FOR TWO HOURS,
DEMAND HALT TO
DIRECT HIRING OF SMOS

Diary Times Desk : Government doctors across the state today observed a two-hour pen-down strike, shutting OPD services from 9 am to 11 am to push for their long-pending demands. The agitation, held on the call of the Haryana Civil Medical Services Association (HCMSA), saw participation from hundreds of doctors across districts. Emergency and labour room services, however, functioned normally. The protesting doctors reiterated their two main demands – an immediate halt to the direct recruitment of Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and issuance of the notification for the modified Assured Career Progression (ACP) structure, which they say has been approved by the Chief Minister but is still pending with the Finance Department. The strike was earlier scheduled for Tuesday but was deferred due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Kurukshetra.

SC ISSUES NOTICE TO CENTRE, HARYANA ON PETITION DEMANDING PROBE INTO
PROOF OF PERIODS ASKED FROM WOMEN WORKERS AT MDU

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday issued notices to the Centre, the Haryana Government and others on a petition seeking a probe into allegations that female sanitation workers at the Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) in Haryana were asked to prove through pictures of their private parts that they were menstruating. "This shows the mentality of the persons (involved). If some heavy work could not be done because of their absence somebody else could have been deployed. We hope something good will happen in this petition," a Bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice R Mahadevan observed, while asking the Centre, the Haryana Government and other respondents to file their replies.



HIGH COURT RAPS PUNJAB FOR
TREATING GROUP D STAFF AS
'SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS'

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has admonished Punjab and its local bodies for systemic neglect of their lowest-rung staff and treating the Group D employees as "second-class citizens" before issuing a sweeping directive to all three administrations – Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh – to ensure speaking orders in service matters to curb avoidable litigation.

"Much to the chagrin of this court, the respondents appear to be unbothered with the plight of its Group D employees in consonance with the unfortunate trend of treating the employees at the bottom of the pyramid as second-class citizens," Justice Harpreet Singh Brar asserted. In his direction aimed at structural reform across all tiers of local government, Justice Brar asserted: "It appears to be the need of the hour to call upon the administrative in-charge/secretary, department of local government for the States of Punjab and Haryana and Union Territory of Chandigarh to issue necessary orders mandating passing of speaking orders."

BONANZA FOR VILLAGERS: 'ABADI
DEH' RESIDENTS IN HARYANA TO
GET OWNERSHIP RIGHTS

Diary Times Desk : Offering major relief to rural residents, the Haryana Government has decided to grant ownership rights to occupants of land in the 'abadi deh' areas – inhabited parts of villages. The long-awaited benefit has been cleared through the Haryana Abadi Deh (Vesting, Recording and Resolving of Ownership Rights) Ordinance, 2025, issued by Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh on November 26. The Ordinance will be tabled in the upcoming winter session of the Assembly for conversion into law.

The 'abadi deh' refers to land within a village's 'lal dora' – the boundary encompassing houses, buildings and other structures. Land outside the 'lal dora' is categorised as agricultural or recognised as "extended lal dora" (phirni).

The cut-off date has been fixed as March 8, 2019, coinciding with the signing of an MoU between the Haryana Government and the Survey of India for village surveys and settlement records.

GURUGRAM THAR OWNER SLAMS HARYANA DGP OVER 'CRAZY' REMARK, SENDS
LEGAL NOTICE TO TOP COP



Diary Times Desk : Haryana Director General of Police (DGP) OP Singh has been served a legal notice by a Thar owner from Gurugram after his recent remarks describing Thar owners as "crazy" and prone to mischief. Sarvo Miter, a resident of Sector 102, sent the notice through his counsel demanding an unconditional written apology and a formal withdrawal of the comments within 15 days. If the DGP fails to comply, Miter has warned of initiating defamation proceedings. During a press conference on November 8, Singh explained why police often stop Mahindra Thar SUVs and Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles for checks. He said these vehicles are frequently associated with reckless behavior.

Hyperloop is dead. Or is it?

H "hyperloop is dead."

That was the prevailing feeling (and, indeed, the headline) when Hyperloop One ceased operations in December 2023.

The dream was over. The idea of hyperloop — trains "flying" through pressurized tubes, shooting from one city to the next at 700 mph — was finished.

Or was it?

Arguably the main player in the crowded hyperloop space, Hyperloop One — which had previously seen investment from the Virgin Group founded by Richard Branson — couldn't balance the books.



Ben Jones
"Hyperloop is unworkable," says rail expert and author Christian Wolmar. "The infrastructure it needs would be amazingly expensive to build and it can't deliver the capacity to compete with high-speed railways or airlines."

Yet nearly two years on, in other parts of the world, hyperloop projects are ongoing.

A handful of companies in China and Europe are working on the technology, while the European Union is backing research on a project that hopes to open its first line in a little more than a decade.

Of course, this might be pie in the sky. Anybody planning a hyperloop line faces an uphill battle of funding, building the infrastructure needed, and the constraints of simple physics. Many in the rail industry remain skeptical that hyperloop could be anything more than a pipe dream.

But those working on the tech still believe they could have us all hurtling along in high-speed tubes — perhaps underground or above ground through a tube supported by stilts — within a generation or two.

While high-speed rail propels travelers across the globe at hundreds of miles per hour, engineers have been dreaming for more than a century of reaching aircraft-level speeds without having to take off.

Over the decades, all manner of weird and wonderful technologies have been proposed to reach speeds that conventional trains cannot match. Magnetic levitation, air currents, jet-propelled monorails and vacuum tubes have all been touted as "the future of travel." Yet so far not one has managed to dislodge traditional steel wheels on steel rails as the world's most efficient method of mass transit.

But could the key to super-fast rail lie in the 19th century? In the 1800s in Manhattan, one bold inventor, Alfred Beach, designed a giant pneumatic tube to run underneath Broadway. Like a scaled-up version of the vacuum tube delivery systems in department stores and hospitals, it would have used air pressure to shoot passengers in sealed capsules up and down the island at high speed.

Sound familiar? In 2013, Elon Musk proposed a form of transport called hyperloop — essentially trains in vacuum tubes capable of whisking travelers from New York City to Washington, D.C., in just 30 minutes.

Musk's concept married magnetic levitation (maglev) technology, already in use in Asia, with low-pressure vacuum tubes to reduce drag and turbulence. The result? Speeds of up to 760 mph, theoretically — using far less energy than high speed trains or open-air maglev trains, and operating in near silence.

Believing the hype

Musk's concept — which he deliberately did not patent — immediately sparked interest across the globe. Hyperloop wasn't just seen as an upgrade to high-speed rail; people thought it could replace air travel, too. While many were wary about its feasibility, investors around the world jumped on the bandwagon, and by 2017, 35 routes had been proposed in 17 countries.

Hyperloop One, the main player, received a huge boost in 2017 when Virgin joined as an investment partner and the company rebranded as Virgin Hyperloop, with Richard Branson joining its board of directors.

45% For Non-European Visitors

LOUVRE MUSEUM TO HIKE ENTRANCE FEE

A visit to the Louvre museum in Paris is set to become significantly more expensive for travelers from outside Europe, with officials announcing plans to hike the price of tickets by 45%.



Jack Guy
Other issues include inadequate security measures, which were exposed in spectacular fashion on October 19 by an audacious daytime robbery in which four men stole priceless historic jewelry.

From January 14, 2026, an individual ticket for visitors from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) — a grouping of nations that comprises the European Union member states plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway — will cost 32 euros (\$37), a spokesperson for the Louvre told CNN on Friday.

Those visiting as part of a group with a guide will have to pay 28 euros (\$32.40) per person.

The price increases are expected to bring in an extra 15-20 million euros (around \$17-23 million) a year, which will be invested in "modernising and upgrading the Louvre to address structural issues



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Built from the late 12th century onwards, the Louvre Palace was the official residence of the kings of France for centuries. Louis XIV's decision to move his court to Versailles, on the outskirts of the French capital, allowed for the establishment of the Louvre Museum in 1793.

Since then, it has become the most visited museum in the world and a cultural highlight of any stay in Paris.

Last year, the Louvre welcomed 8.7 million visitors, with tourists from the United States making up 13% of all guests, second only to the French.

But the large crowds coming through the museum's doors each day have put a strain on the centuries-old building — and its staff.

Other issues include inadequate security measures, which were exposed in spectacular fashion on October 19 by an audacious daytime robbery in which four men stole priceless historic jewelry.

These shortcomings were described in a report released by a French court on November 6, which slammed the Louvre's leadership for its focus on headline-grabbing purchases and renovation projects over maintaining the security of one of the world's largest museums.

Pierre Moscovici, president of the Court of Accounts, which authored the report, told journalists that the robbery was a "deafening alarm signal" for the museum.

However, the plan to introduce higher ticket prices for non-EEA visitors pre-dates the heist, as it was announced by French culture minister Rachida Dati at the beginning of this year.

Similar measures will also apply at other attractions, such as the Palace of Versailles, the Sainte Chapelle in Paris and the Château de Chambord in the Loire Valley, according to the spokesperson.

INFA

Final Destinations

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE DEAD GO TRAVELING

On a Monday morning in early September, Ben Vos's phone rings at 5 a.m., marking a particularly early start to his week. The call is from air traffic control at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, informing Vos that a passenger on a flight from Asia has died en route to the Netherlands.



Blane Bachelor

The business remains open around the clock, with at least two employees on site at all times, because death rarely accommodates schedules. "It's 24-7," says Vos, who is accustomed to answering his mobile phone at all hours. "It never stops."

And thus, the process he oversees hundreds of times a year — managing post-mortem care for travelers who pass away abroad or, in this case, onboard — begins anew for Vos, who is mortuary coordinator at Mortuarium Schiphol, or Schiphol Mortuary, located outside the airport's sprawling pre-security retail and dining area.

Following the flight's 6 a.m. arrival, Vos will accompany a representative of the Koninklijke Marechaussee, the Netherlands agency that handles border control, onto the aircraft after passengers have disembarked. Also present will be the coroner, who will make a preliminary evaluation for cause of death as a heart attack. Vos and the Marechaussee agent will then place the deceased passenger into a body bag for removal off the aircraft — through a rear emergency exit, behind the wings — and to the mortuary, which has an airside door.

"There's a special vehicle that comes right to the plane. We can go out of the plane and directly into the vehicle, so lots of people don't see what we do at the airport," he explains.

Ensuring maximum privacy and respect for the deceased is a big part of the job for Vos. Equally essential is supporting the bereaved, who are often struggling not only with grief but the overwhelming reality of a scenario many travelers don't give a second thought to when planning their next vacation: What happens if they die abroad?

Vos and his team of three at Schiphol Mortuary are specially trained to handle that very process, which in industry terms is known as repatriation of mortal remains, or RMR. Every department at the airport has "the small details covered, says Vos, and his team is no exception.

A first of its kind While it's not uncommon for airports to have morgues or cold storage capabilities onsite, full-service facilities dedicated to death care are much rarer. MOS, as the mortuary is known, became the first such offering when it began operations in 1997 at Schiphol, now Europe's second-busiest airport.

In 2017, MOS moved to its current location, separated from

some of Schiphol's departure gates by a barbed wire fence. It's behind the CitizenM airport hotel, where suitcase-toting guests sometimes pause for a closer look at the neighboring building upon noticing the all-caps signage: MORTUARIUM SCHIPHOL.

Beyond its understated facade, which has vertical strips of wood and strategically placed windows, the approximately 9,700-square-foot facility contains all the elements of a funeral home: an embalming room, cold storage, an area to wash bodies before burial, as is custom in certain religions and cultures, and a viewing room with a circular skylight. In the small atrium, a single tree reaches toward the sky.

In a separate lounge area, a few couches line the walls, with several circular tables and chairs throughout the room. On the tables, pitchers of water sit alongside vases of artificial flowers. "We have flowers for spring and summer, and then autumn and winter," says Vos.



A SPRINKLING OF CLASSIC WEEK HIGHLIGHTS: A 10TH-CENTURY GOSPEL BOOK, A TURNER SKETCH MADE AS A GIFT, A THRACIAN GOLD MASK...

Diary Times Desk : A painted procession of Amsterdam’s orphans
At the turn of the 20th century, Nicolaas van der Waay was one of Amsterdam’s leading artists, and a professor at the city’s prestigious Rijksakademie, says Alastair Plumb, director, senior specialist, European Art. ‘Among his best-known works are his depictions of the Dutch capital’s orphan girls, instantly recognisable by their red and black uniforms.’

The orphan girls were housed in the Burgerweeshuis, which was founded in 1520. Van der Waay wasn’t granted permission to sketch inside the orphanage, but the institution did let him have a uniform, which he used to stage scenes with models in his studio and around the city.

The prayer books in this scene indicate that the girls are on their way to church. Behind them, the glazed panorama of the city gently reflects the outlines of their bonnets. The image evokes civic pride, in both the city and its treatment of the less fortunate, but it says little about the harsh realities of life in the orphanage.

Van der Waay’s ledgers reveal that he completed at least three paintings of this scene. One is in Poland’s National Museum in Poznań, while another is in the Amsterdam Museum, which since 1975 has occupied the former site of the orphanage that didn’t allow Van der Waay within its walls.

A rare 10th-century Gospel book
These recently unearthed Gospels, containing the four books of the New Testament — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — were made more than a millennium ago.

They are written in Carolingian minuscule, a script established by the Emperor Charlemagne, and nail holes indicate that they may originally have been enclosed in a covering of precious metal and jewels, known as a ‘treasure binding’. Inside, one tantalising line of script reads ‘for the veiling of handmaidens of God’, suggesting that the manuscript was produced for women.

A probable candidate for its origin is Essen Abbey, an Ottonian imperial abbey founded in the western region of modern-day Germany around 845 by Altfred, a Saxon noble who was later canonised.



CHEF GUNJAN GOELA RECIPE BATHUA–CHOLAI–METHI SAAG (KASAD STYLE)

Chef Gunjan Goela :

Bathua–Cholai–Methi Saag (Kasad Style)

Serves: 4

Time 1 hr

Ingredients

- 1- 2 cups Bathua (Chenopodium leaves) tightly packed
- 2- 1½ cup Cholai / Chaulai Saag (Amaranth leaves) tightly packed
- 3 - 1½ cup Methi (Fenugreek leaves) tightly packed
- 4 -1 / 2 small bunch Hara Dhania with stems
- 5 - 2 to 3 Green chillies
- 6 -1/2-inch Ginger (crushed or grated)
- 7-12 Garlic cloves (crushed)
- 8- 1/2 kg Tomatoes
- 9 - 2 -3 tbsp. Makki ka Atta for thickening as done in saag)
- 10- Salt - to taste

For Baghaar

- 5 tbsp Desi Ghee
- 1 tsp Jeera
- 1 tsp Chilli powder

Method

- Clean and Blanch the Greens
Pluck leaves and wash thoroughly (bathua tends to hold a lot of mud, so wash 3-4 times).
- Chop roughly.
- In a pressure cooker add all 3 greens + coriander stems + green chillies + a little water (just enough to steam, don't drown the greens), crushed ginger n garlic.
- cook on low for 10-12 minutes until well done.

Mash / Kasad

- Sprinkle 2-3 tsp makki ka atta; this binds and gives the kasad texture.
- Cook again for 10 minutes on low flame.
- Either mash with a wooden mathani, or pulse very lightly in a mixer (just 1-2 seconds, keep it coarse).
- The rustic texture is important - not a puree.

Baghaar

- In a small pan, Heat desi ghee, Add jeera, let splutter.
- Add Chilli powder
- If using tomato, add now and sauté till soft but not overly mushy.
- Pour this tadka over the kasad saag.

5.Final Simmer

- Mix, cover, and cook 5 minutes on very low flame.
Taste and adjust salt.
Garnish with paneer.

Gunjan Goela — The Essence of Vegetarian Heritage

Gunjan Goela is a distinguished vegetarian chef and culinary curator whose work celebrates India's rich legacy of plant-based cuisine. Deeply rooted in her Bania heritage and inspired by the principles of Ayurveda, her cooking reflects a fine balance between flavour, texture, colour, and nourishment.

Gunjan's philosophy goes beyond recipes - she explores food as a way of life, guided by seasonality, sustainability, and emotional well-being. Her creations are deeply influenced by traditional wisdom, yet carry a modern aesthetic that appeals to contemporary sensibilities.

Through her extensive work - from reviving lost temple recipes to reinterpreting regional delicacies - Gunjan has emerged as a leading voice in India's evolving vegetarian narrative. Her kitchen is where heritage meets mindfulness, and every dish tells a story of India's timeless culinary spirit.



LAPORTA HITS OUT AT REAL MADRID AFTER FLORENTINO PEREZ’S
ACCUSATIONS – ‘TRYING TO FIND EXCUSES THAT LEAD
NOWHERE’



Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona president Joan Laporta did not hold back when speaking about Real Madrid, following Florentino Perez’s recent accusations during the club’s Assembly, where he claimed that the Catalans had tasted success in the past because of their payments to Negreira.

Perez called out Barça over the Negreira case as well as pointed fingers at the club for agreeing to go through with La Liga’s proposal to play a league game abroad, which ended up being cancelled.

Laporta lashes out
During his visit to Andorra la Vella, Barcelona president Laporta lashed out at the accusations levelled at the club by his Real Madrid counterpart, stating that Los Blancos were obsessed with the Blaugrana.

AGENT OF FORMER BARCELONA TARGET
ADVISES CLUB TO SIGN BRAZILIAN
MIDFIELDER – ‘IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY’

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona’s 3-0 defeat to Chelsea was a bitter pill to swallow for the Blaugrana, not so much for the defeat itself as much as Estevao dominating the club’s defensive lines and even scoring a memorable goal.

Estevao, after all, was determined to join Barcelona not too long ago and was even offered to the Catalan club, before he eventually joined Chelsea

Now, Estevao’s agent, Andre Cury, has advised Barcelona to go after another player so that they don’t miss out on yet another Brazilian star.

Barcelona advised to sign Ederson
In a recent interview with Que t’hi Jugues (h/t SPORT), Cury has advised Barcelona to sign Brazilian midfielder Ederson.

“A player who I think can adapt very well to the system of play, contribute a lot of physicality and a lot of experience, is Éderson, who plays for Atalanta,” he said.

It must be noted that Cury has worked with Barcelona in the past, notably helping the club sign players like Arturo Vidal and Paulinho.

LAPORTA DEFENDS BARCELONA CAPTAIN
AMID CRITICISM AFTER CHELSEA LOSS –
‘NO ONE PERSON IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE’

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona president Joan Laporta has come out in defence of captain Ronald Araujo, who has come under criticism after the team’s recent loss to Chelsea.

Araujo, who started the game at Stamford Bridge, was sent off in the 44th minute for two bookable offences in quick succession.

His red card left the team at a disadvantage, allowing Chelsea to secure a rather comfortable 3-0 victory, leaving Barça in a difficult position in the UEFA Champions League.

Araujo criticism unfair, says Laporta
Speaking to the media during his visit to Andorra, Laporta addressed Araujo’s sending-off and the subsequent criticism that has been directed at the defender.

“The team showed character despite playing with 10 men. Regarding the sending-off: the first card was very harsh, and then that play left us with 10,” began Laporta.

Showing his support for Araujo, he added: “I want to, in a way.

FLICK TALKS ARAUJO, PEDRI, RAPHINHA, LAMINE, FERMIN, ERIC AHEAD OF
BARCELONA VS ALAVES

Diary Times Desk : After the midweek defeat to Chelsea, FC Barcelona will be gunning to bounce back to winning ways when they take on Deportivo Alaves in La Liga on Saturday.

The Blaugrana have an excellent opportunity to go past arch-rivals Real Madrid in the table with a victory tomorrow, and will be hoping to collect all three points at the new Spotify Camp Nou.

Ahead of the clash against Alaves, who are currently 14th in the league table, Barça manager Hansi Flick addressed the media, discussing various topics, including the absence of defender Ronald Araujo and the injury to Fermin Lopez.

Kicking things off, the German tactician opened up on how his team will approach the game against Alaves.



BARCELONA WON’T HAVE TO
DEAL WITH THE REPEAT OF THE
‘OLMO CASE’ WITH KEY
SUMMER ARRIVAL

Diary Times Desk : In what will come as a major relief for FC Barcelona fans, there will be no repeat of the ‘Dani Olmo case’ this year on 31 December with goalkeeper Joan Garcia, reports Mundo Deportivo.

The former Espanyol goalkeeper, who signed for Barcelona in the summer transfer window, is registered for the entire 2025/26 season through Marc-Andre ter Stegen’s long-term injury, the report clarifies.

No Olmo case
Therefore, there will be no end-of-year situation like 31 December 2024, when Barcelona had to seek income sources in order to achieve the 1:1 rule that would allow them to register Dani Olmo from 1 January 2025.

After all, the Spanish playmaker’s registration, secured from Andreas Christensen’s long-term injury, expired on 31 December 2024.

After a to-and-fro between La Liga and Barcelona, a provisional measure from the Higher Sports Council (CSD) in January then allowed Olmo to be registered, a decision that was ratified in early April.

BARCELONA DEFENDER RULED
OUT OF ALAVES GAME AFTER
MISSING TRAINING TWO DAYS
IN A ROW

Diary Times Desk : In a concerning development for FC Barcelona, Javi Miguel of AS reports that defender Ronald Araujo is ruled out of the weekend’s La Liga clash against Deportivo Alaves.

The Uruguayan defender stayed in the gym and did not train with the rest of the group out on the field today, while he was absent from Thursday’s session as well.

As a result, he is now ruled out for Saturday’s match against Alaves at the renovated Spotify Camp Nou.

Araujo started Barcelona’s last game against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge earlier this week, where he was sent off in the first half.

As reported already, the 26-year-old defender has been deeply affected mentally by his mistake that cost the team heavily at Stamford Bridge.

Along with that, the defender also seems to be dealing with a physical issue, which has now rendered him unavailable to face Alaves this Saturday. An official update from the club is awaited. While Araujo has drawn a lot of criticism for his error against Chelsea, the locker room fully supports the second captain and are standing with him in this difficult moment.