

NEWS IN BRIEF

**"LOVE LIVES":
WOMAN 'MARRIES'
LOVER'S BODY
AFTER FAMILY
KILLS HIM OVER
CASTE**
Diary Times Desk :

A 20-year-old man was beaten up, shot and his head was crushed with a stone in Maharashtra's Nanded. At his funeral, his girlfriend applied vermilion on her forehead and vowed to live in his house as a daughter-in-law.

Aanchal met Saksham Tate through her brothers and grew closer over frequent visits to his home. Their three-year-old relationship recently began facing pressure from her family, who opposed their union over a difference in their castes. Aanchal continued their relationship with Tate despite numerous threats.

When Aanchal's brothers and father learned that she was going to marry Tate, they beat him up on Thursday, shot him in the head and crushed his head with a stone. As his last rites were underway, Aanchal reached Tate's house. She applied turmeric on his body, vermilion on her forehead and married her dead boyfriend's body. She then decided to live in his house for the rest of her life as his wife. "Our love won, even in Saksham's death, and my father and brothers lost."

CM OMAR
**ABDULLAH, LG
SINHA DENY
ISSUING ORDERS;
WHO IS DRIVING
DEMOLITION
CAMPAIGN IN J&K?**
Diary Times Desk :

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lt Governor Manoj Sinha have denied issuing demolition orders on several properties in the Narwal area, raising serious concerns regarding the action carried out by Jammu Development Authority (JDA). Among the structures demolished during the "anti-encroachment" drive on Thursday was a house of a local journalist, Arfaz Daing, who runs the digital news portal Nees Seher India.

"We had been living here for 40 years," Arfaz said.

A day earlier, the demolition drive was carried out in Kangan in central Kashmir. The demolition drives have evoked strong condemnation and criticism from civil society members and political leaders.

**VLADIMIR
PUTIN**
**PUTIN'S INDIA VISIT: ARMS, OIL AND A CHANGING
PARTNERSHIP**


Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin will be in New Delhi on December 4-5, 2025, for the annual India-Russia Summit. This is his first visit to India since the Ukraine war altered global alignments and defence supply chains. The meeting carries significant diplomatic and strategic weight, coming at a time when New Delhi is recalibrating its long-standing dependence on Russian military hardware while dramatically expanding energy trade with Moscow.

Over two days, the two sides will review cooperation across defence, nuclear energy, hydrocarbons, space, technology, and trade. A key focus is expected to be next-generation air-defence systems, including discussions around Russia's S-500 platform, signalling that military ties remain central even as India diversifies suppliers. The Russian S-400 was used to shield India from drone attacks by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Defence: Russia Still No. 1, But Not What It Once Was
For decades, India was overwhelmingly reliant on Moscow for its

military inventory—a legacy of Cold War alignment and the Soviet Union's readiness to transfer technologies that Western countries were hesitant to share. However, that dominance has weakened in recent years.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Russia supplied over 70% of India's major conventional arms through the early 2000s and 2010s, peaking at 89% in 2002. A similar surge was seen in 2012, when Russia supplied 87% of India's arms imports.

However, after 2014, the share began to decline, dropping to 49% in 2014 and falling further to 38% in 2019. In the latest five-year period (2019-2023), Russia's share dropped to around 36%, the lowest in over 60 years. India's imports from Western suppliers, particularly France and the US, have increased as New Delhi spreads its defence bets.

This decline does not mean that Russia has lost relevance. Moscow remains India's top supplier because of:

1. The legacy of Soviet-origin systems that still require Russian maintenance.
2. Big-ticket platforms like nuclear submarines and air-defence systems, which few other nations supply.
3. India's interest in next-generation missile defence and hypersonic systems, where Russia remains ahead of many Western suppliers.

PM MODI MAKES GESTURE OF TRUCE TO RSS CHIEF MOHAN BHAGWAT IN AYODHYA RAM TEMPLE CEREMONY

Diary Times Desk : The sacred flag-hoisting ceremony in Ayodhya earlier this week turned out to be a rare moment when Prime Minister Narendra Modi stepped back from assuming the lead role at a major event. As Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief, Mohan Bhagwat, walked into the Ram temple, the PM allowed Bhagwat to lead the way, following a step behind.

The gesture surprised many given Modi's reputation for a 'main hi main hoon (me and only me)' approach, where he is typically the sole prominent figure in photographs. Even during the hoisting of the Dharma Dhvaj atop the Ram temple, Modi invited Bhagwat to stand beside him, and the two jointly turned the lever. Bharatiya Janata Party leaders maintain that the PM's gesture was meant to accord due respect to Bhagwat, the head of the sangh parivar.

Politically, however, the move was seen as yet another attempt to repair ties with the RSS. Modi had not offered prominence to Bhagwat during the temple's foundation-laying ceremony or its inauguration in the past. It is widely believed that the election of a new BJP president has been delayed due to prolonged differences between the party and the sangh.

Modi's gesture towards Bhagwat has reportedly been well-received by the RSS leadership. With the sangh signalling a willingness to endorse Modi's choice, buzz within BJP circles suggests that the long-pending appointment of a new party president may be imminent.


**ATHLETE BRUTALLY KILLED BY MOB FOR
CALLING OUT INDECENT BEHAVIOUR AT
WEDDING**


Diary Times Desk : A national-level para-athlete from Haryana's Rohtak district died of his injuries two days after a group of men brutally beat him up with iron rods and hockey sticks after he objected to their alleged indecent behaviour at a wedding.

Rohit Dhankar died at Pandit BD Sharma Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences on Saturday.

On the evening of November 27, the 28-year-old and his friend, Jatin, went to attend a wedding ceremony at a relative's house in Rewari Khara. At the venue, they had an argument with some of the guests from the groom's side after Dhankar objected to their unruly behaviour.

After the wedding ceremony, while they were returning to Rohtak, the car that Dhankar and his friend were travelling by was hit from behind, and they were surrounded by around 15 to 20 men. They attacked Dhankar with iron rods and hockey sticks, leaving him seriously injured. His friend somehow managed to escape the assault. The professional powerlifter was first admitted to Bhiwani General Hospital, and after his condition deteriorated, he was referred to Rohtak, where he died of his injuries.

"We had to stop the car at a railway crossing where we were surrounded by these men. One of their cars was in front of us, and three were behind our car. They caught hold of Rohit while I managed to escape," he added.

**ANDHRA PRADESH TO SET UP THREE DISTINCT
DEVELOPMENT ZONES**


Diary Times Desk : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has said that the government will soon create three distinct regional zones in the state for balanced development.

CM Naidu reportedly said that development would not be confined to any single region, while attending a public grievances programme at the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)'s headquarters in Mangalagiri on Saturday, November 29.

The three zones will be created around north Andhra, Rayalaseema, and the central coastal districts, according to The Hindu. Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, and Amaravati will serve as the headquarters for the three economic regions, Eenadu reported.

The previous YSR Congress Party government led by former CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had proposed to have three capitals for the state – Visakhapatnam in north Andhra, Kurnool in Rayalaseema, and Amaravati in the central coastal area – each with different functions, in the interest of decentralising governance and development.

This was challenged in court by farmers and landowners in Amaravati who protested the move, as they had given up land in the Amaravati capital region hoping to be compensated with developed plots with urban infrastructure and higher real estate value.

The YSRCP then withdrew its three capital bills from the Andhra Pradesh Assembly, saying they would be reintroduced in a different form to withstand legal challenges.

MASSIVE FIRE

**THREE DEAD, TWO WOMEN
INJURED IN MASSIVE FIRE
AT SOUTH DELHI
FOOTWEAR SHOP**


Diary Times Desk : Three people died and two women sustained injuries after a massive fire broke out at a footwear shop in south Delhi's Tigr Extension on Saturday evening, police said.

A PCR call reporting the blaze at the shop on the ground floor of a four-storey building was received at 6.24 pm, following which police rushed to the spot.

On arrival, authorities found the entire building engulfed in flames. A senior police officer said the fire was believed to have originated from the footwear shop on the ground floor before spreading upwards.

Three people were found dead at the scene, while two injured women were rescued from the building and shifted to a hospital. The officer added that their condition is being closely monitored.

Crime and forensic teams have been called in to inspect the site, and evidence is being collected to ascertain the cause of the fire.

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**"US SET RADICAL NEW
TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT": S
JAISHANKAR AMID TRADE
TENSIONS**


Diary Times Desk : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said politics increasingly "trumps" economics in the present era, and in an "uncertain world", it is important that the country continuously diversifies supply sources to guarantee its needs.

He also said the United States has set radically new terms of engagement by dealing with countries on a one-on-one basis. Jaishankar was addressing a gathering after being conferred Honorary Doctorate by IIM-Calcutta at its campus here. He added that India has been actively pursuing self-reliance and making itself a manufacturing base for industries.

"This is an era where politics increasingly trumps economics... and that is not a pun... In an uncertain world, it is all the more important that we continuously diversify supply sources to guarantee our national needs," Jaishankar said.

"The United States, long the underwriter of the contemporary system, has set radically new terms of engagement. It is doing so by dealing with countries on a one-on-one basis," he noted.



EXPERTS URGE YEAR-ROUND SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE AIR POLLUTION, NOT JUST SHORT-TERM FIXES



Diary Times Desk : Amid worsening air pollution in the national capital, health experts on Saturday emphasised the need for solutions that work throughout the year, and not for a short period. Delhi's air quality remained entrenched in the very poor category for the 15th consecutive day, with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 338 at 7 a.m. "We have reached an emergency in Delhi. The efforts to curb pollution cannot be only temporary, which may help immediately for a little while, but long-term solutions to this city are urgently required," Dr. Anant Mohan, Professor and Head, Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Sleep Disorders, AIIMS New Delhi, told IANS.

"We have to do something very urgently on this now at this stage," he added.

The city's 24-hour average AQI on Friday stood at 369, extending Delhi's persistent run of very poor air quality through half the month.

JAMIAT-ULAMA-HIND CHIEF MAULANA MADANI'S REMARKS ON JUDICIARY AND SC TRIGGER POLITICAL STORM

Diary Times Desk : A major political storm has erupted after Jamiat Ulama-Hind president Maulana Mahmood Asad Madani, accused the Supreme Court of functioning "under government pressure" and added that "it didn't deserve to be called as Supreme, if it failed to enforce the Constitution fully."

Addressing the national governing body meeting of the Deobandi body, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, in Bhopal on Saturday, he said, "Supreme Court is entitled to be called as Supreme only until it upholds the Constitution and the rights enshrined in the law."

"The court verdicts in the last few years, including those on the Babri Mosque and Triple Talaq, have led to a common belief that the judiciary is working under government pressure. It has put a question mark on the role of the judiciary in the country," Madani said.

NATIONAL HERALD: MAGISTRATE ORDERS DELHI POLICE TO GIVE FIR COPY TO GANDHIS; SESSIONS COURT STAYS ORDER 2 DAYS LATER

Diary Times Desk : Three days after the Delhi Police filed an FIR against Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and others in the National Herald case, a Magistrate ordered the police to inform the Gandhis and other accused about the development and share a copy of the FIR.

However, a Sessions Court stayed the order two days later after the police filed a revision plea.

Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) filed an FIR on October 3, naming the Gandhis, Sam Pitroda, Suman Dubey, Young Indian and others as accused for the offences of cheating, dishonest misappropriation of property and criminal breach of trust along with criminal conspiracy.

The FIR was based on information provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under Section 66 (2) of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED is already probing the money laundering angle in the case.



RAJASTHAN WAS GOING TO CELEBRATE BABRI DEMOLITION, THEN PULLED BACK

Diary Times Desk : After deciding to celebrate the demolition of the Babri Masjid as Shaurya Diwas on December 6, the Rajasthan government reversed course and withdrew its order, terming it "brahmak" or confusing. On October 22, a letter from the state government directed all government offices and private schools to organise speeches and essays to celebrate "Babri Demolition Day" as Shaurya Diwas.

The suggested topics included the glory of "Indian temple culture and the Ram movement", "the tradition of bravery and sacrifice", "the role of youth in nation building", and drawing and poster-making on topics such as the "Ram Temple in Ayodhya".

Patriotic songs, skit performances, and exhibitions detailing the construction of the Ram Temple were to be organised in government and private schools, as per a circular issued by Sita Ram Jat.

SC'S LONE WOMAN JUDGE SAYS REVISITING ORDERS ERODES AUTHORITY. 'WRITTEN IN INK, NOT SAND'

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court's only woman judge, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, Saturday struck a note of caution for the institution, publicly disapproving of the emerging trend in the top court to revisit and overturn its past rulings.

She called it the greatest challenge faced by the judiciary from within, quietly eroding the authority of judges who deliver verdicts that are overturned later. The judge also warned that such a practice threatens to shake public confidence in the institution.

Justice Nagarathna was delivering a speech at the International Convention on the Independence of the Judiciary: Comparative Perspectives on Rights, Institutions and Citizens at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat.

Her remarks come days after a two-judge bench of the Supreme Court, comprising Justices Dipankar Dutta and Augustine George Masih, underlined the "painful" trend of the court rewriting its own verdicts. This, the bench said, affected the credibility of the institution. The observations were part of an order that denied modification of bail condition to a man facing murder charges.

MADHYA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER'S SON TO MARRY IN MASS WEDDING IN UJJAIN



Diary Times Desk : At a time when weddings are defined by extravagance and exclusivity, Madhya Pradesh's holy city, Ujjain, is witnessing something beautiful and different: an extraordinary union of tradition, simplicity, and community spirit. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's younger son, Abhimanyu Yadav, will marry Ishita Yadav not in a private royal event but as part of a mass wedding ceremony alongside 21 other couples in Sanwara Khedi.

This unusual gesture has captured the attention and affection of people across the state. Beyond the scale and grandeur.

"DETERMINATION OF GEN Z GREATEST STRENGTH OF VIKSIT BHARAT": PM MODI ON MANN KI BAAT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the determination of the country's Gen Z is the greatest strength of 'Viksiti Bharat'.

Addressing the 128th episode of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat', PM Modi said, "If there is determination in the heart, faith in the collective strength to work as a team, if there is the courage to fall and then rise again, then success is guaranteed even in the difficult times."

"Imagine that era when there were no satellites, GPS or navigation facilities, even then our sailors would take large ships into the ocean and reach their destinations. Now, going beyond the seas, countries of the world are measuring the infinite expanse of space. The challenge remains the same -- no GPS or any communication, then how would we move forward?" he said.

Recalling an instance, the Prime Minister said that he saw a viral video on social media from ISRO's drone competition, where Gen Z showcased their skills.

11 KILLED, 60 INJURED AFTER 2 PASSENGER BUSES COLLIDE IN TAMIL NADU

Diary Times Desk : At least 11 people were killed and 60 others injured after two Tamil Nadu government buses collided head-on near Kummangudi in Sivaganga district on Sunday evening, police said.

The accident occurred around five kilometres from Pillaiyarpatti, in the Tirupattur area.

"Eleven people, including a child, were killed in a road accident in Sivaganga district," Tamil Nadu Police chief said.

Rescue efforts by the public and fellow passengers helped pull several victims out of the mangled vehicles.

One of the buses was travelling from Tiruppur to Karaikudi, while the other was headed from Karaikudi towards Dindigul district.

Pictures from the accident site showed the driver's side of one of the buses completely ripped off.

Videos from the accident site showed bodies lying in a row on the ground. A woman was seen jumping out of the front of the bus, whose windshield was blown away. One woman was sitting on the ground with blood dripping from her forehead.

Emergency teams rushed the injured to nearby hospitals, and officials said more details on the cause of the crash and the condition of those hospitalised are awaited.


This is the second major head-on collision involving government and private buses in southern Tamil Nadu within a week.

GOVERNMENT'S BILL-HEAVY WINTER SESSION OFF TO FRAUGHT START AMID OPPOSITION OBJECTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Congress leader Jairam Ramesh wrote on X on Sunday that the all-party meeting called by the Modi government to discuss the agenda for the Winter Session of Parliament "is a mere formality."

He highlighted that the 15-day session, set to run from December 1 to 19, will be the shortest in Parliamentary history, and warned that the government's approach leaves little room for Opposition input or debate.

"The Modi Govt has listed 13 Bills for passage. Of these one replaces an ordinance and two have gone through a committee of the Lok Sabha. So ten Bills have not been examined by the Standing Committee concerned. Of course, it is possible that a Bill not listed at present will suddenly get introduced towards the later part of the short session," Ramesh said.



IN SIDDARAMAIAH VS DKS TUSSLE, AN HD KUMARASWAMY-BS YEDIYURAPPA DEJA VU

Diary Times Desk : Karnataka is again living through a crisis that feels eerily familiar. Over the last week senior Congress leaders, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar, moved from open rivalry to a breakfast featuring upma, idli, and sambar. The current contest evokes strong parallels to a previous chapter in Karnataka's political history which offers a cautionary tale.

In 2006-07 an ostensibly stable pact between the Janata Dal (Secular) (JDS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a rotational power-sharing arrangement collapsed into political acrimony, resignations and a period of President's Rule. The episode involved a familiar cast of JD(S) chief HD. Kumaraswamy and BJP stalwart BS Yediyurappa.

The arrangement was supposed to provide a stable alternative to Congress rule. But soon, cracks appeared. Corruption allegations and clashes over prominent infrastructure projects marred the relationship.

INDIA JUST KILLED THE 'WI-FI WHATSAPP USER': THE DEATH OF SPARE-PHONE ERA

Diary Times Desk : For years, India has lived with a quiet, familiar tribe: the Wi-Fi WhatsApp user. The teenager glued to a hand-me-down phone with no balance and no SIM, but reliable home Wi-Fi. The NRI who keeps an India number alive only inside WhatsApp, the small shopkeeper taking orders on a spare handset that never makes a call. The journalist who installs WhatsApp on every spare device, just to keep work and life from colliding on a single screen.

A new set of Department of Telecommunications (DoT) rules, issued without the usual build-up of public debate and enforced with immediate effect, has made it illegal for WhatsApp, Telegram, Signal and similar apps to run on any device that does not contain the active SIM card linked to the account. In simple terms, if the SIM isn't inside the phone, the app won't work. The era of multi-device hopping is over.

PAK SHIFTED 72 TERROR LAUNCHPADS, FORCES READY FOR OPERATION SINDOOR 2.0: BSF

Diary Times Desk : More than six dozen terror launchpads have been shifted to the "depth areas" in Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, and the force is ready to inflict heavy losses on the enemy if the government decides to resume the cross-border operation, senior BSF officers said on Saturday.

However, the BSF is honouring the halt in military action after four days of clashes from May 7-10, they said.

"After the BSF destroyed many terror launchpads along the border during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan government shifted all such facilities to the depth areas... About 12 launchpads are working from the depth areas of Sialkot and Zaffarwal, which are not exactly on the border.

Vikram Kunwar, along with BSF IG, Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand, and DIG Kulwant Rai Sharma addressed a joint press conference to highlight the achievements of the force in 2025, including its role in Operation Sindoor.

VOTER LIST CLEANUP DEADLINE EXTENDED BY A WEEK, FINAL LIST OUT ON FEB 14

Diary Times Desk : The deadline for the voter list cleanup exercise special intensive revision (SIR) in 12 states and Union Territories has been extended by a week till February 14, the Election Commission said today. The SIR issue is likely to lead to a huge showdown in parliament during the winter session that would begin tomorrow.

The Election Commission in a three-page order issued today said it has allowed one more week for poll officials to publish the draft list of voters. The enumeration period will end on December 11. Earlier, it was set to December 4.

In the fresh order, the Election Commission said the draft voter list which was scheduled to be released on December 9 will be published on December 16, and the final list will be published on February 14.



MAN MARRIES WOMAN 4 HOURS AFTER BLIND DATE, SHE SPENDS ALL HIS RS 30 LAKH SAVINGS IN A MONTH

Diary Times Desk :

A 40-year-old man from China, who got married to a woman he met just four hours ago on a blind date, saw his life savings of over Rs 30 lakh vanish within a month, thanks to his bride's demands.

The man, identified as Huang Zhongcheng from southern China, met his bride on August 21 through a matchmaking network. "On the way to the blind date, eight matchmakers suddenly appeared. Including the one from my village, there were nine in total recommending the same woman," Huang told Hunan Broadcasting System.

The woman, who works at a beauty salon, insisted they register their marriage the same day. "Around 5 pm, we went to register. Everything happened so quickly. I was in a daze; I even told her, 'Today feels like a dream,'" Huang recalled.

Demands for money begins two days after marriage

The couple spent one night together—their only intimate moment. "After that, even when I attempted to hug her, she pushed me away," Huang said. Within two days, she urged him to leave for Guangdong to earn money and began requesting funds under various pretences.

A TAIWAN PREVIEW? CHINA'S COVERT SUPPORT RESHAPING THE UKRAINE WAR, WARNS GEOSTRATEGIST

Diary Times Desk : China is quietly moving from the sidelines of the Ukraine conflict into the heart of Russia's war-fighting infrastructure, marking what geopolitical strategist Velina Tchakarova describes as the "Second Phase" of the DragonBear's strategic partnership.

In a detailed analysis posted on X (formally twitter), Tchakarova argues that Beijing's involvement has evolved from political signalling to material co-production — with ramifications that stretch far beyond the battlefield in Ukraine.

PROLONGED BORDER CLOSURE WITH AFGHANISTAN WORSENS PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC CRISIS

Diary Times Desk : The ongoing closure of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border since October 11 has dealt a severe blow to Pakistan's trade, manufacturing, and export sectors, worsening the country's already fragile economic situation.

The standoff has not only halted two-way trade but also triggered shortages, price hikes, and production disruptions across key industries that depend on Afghan routes for imports and exports, as reported by Dawn.

According to Dawn, the cement industry has been among the hardest hit. Imports of Afghan coal and exports of cement to Afghanistan have completely stopped, forcing manufacturers in northern Pakistan to rely on costlier coal imports from South Africa, Indonesia, and Mozambique.

WHAT IS T-DOME THAT TAIWAN PLANS TO BUILD TO COUNTER CHINA THREATS

Diary Times Desk : Taiwan's government has proposed \$40 billion in extra defence spending over several years, with the focus on developing a multi-layered air defence system dubbed "T-Dome."

The system will be designed to protect the democratic island against a potential attack by Chinese fighter jets, missiles or drones.

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to annex it.

Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has promised to speed up construction of the T-Dome to create "a safety net" for Taiwan and counter what he calls China's "intensifying" threat to the island and region.



FIGHT LIKE CHE GUEVARA'S GUERRILLAS, OR JUST DESERT? HOW WILL THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY RESPOND IF US ARMY INVADES THEIR COUNTRY?

Diary Times Desk : There is no question that the military capabilities of the United States cannot be compared with those of Venezuela. It is a mismatch of scale — like an ant against an elephant.

Donald Trump's forces have conducted bomber flights near Venezuela, and the USS Gerald R. Ford, America's most advanced aircraft carrier, was sent to the area. The Ford rounds off the largest build-up of US firepower in the region in generations. With its arrival, the Operation Southern Spear mission includes nearly a dozen Navy ships and about 12,000 sailors and Marines.

Trump's team has weighed both military and non-military options with Venezuela, including covert action by the CIA.

As of 2020, the country is said to have 109,000 to 123,000 active personnel and another 8,000 reserves. It's Navy is made up of roughly 10,000 to 30,000 personnel -- including Marines and Coast Guard. However, the Venezuelan military is greatly underpaid. Desertions are often reported, and any news of an impending US invasion could cause more. Maduro is popular among the military higher-ups of the country by placing officers in government roles. But the lowly foot soldiers, with payments that hardly ensure their ends are met, have no moral loyalty to the regime.



INDIAN MAN'S SURPRISE PROPOSAL AT NEW YORK'S TIMES SQUARE STEALS HEARTS ONLINE

Diary Times Desk : An Indian man, Parth Maniar, surprised his partner with a Bollywood-style proposal at New York's Times Square, a video of which went viral on social media. The video shows the male squad's choreographed dance performance on Shah Rukh Khan's popular song Pretty Woman from the movie Kal Ho Naa Ho. The energetic performance left onlookers cheering and the partner pleasantly surprised.

The video was posted on Instagram, garnered more than 3 lakh views and thousands of comments. In the caption, Maniar wrote, "When the homies become dancers so you can become a fiancee."

He also shared two more videos of performance on the Koi Mil Gaya song from Kuch Kuch Hota Hai and another song, Wo Ladki Jo, from the movie Baadshah.

'NOT TRANSPARENT': IMF FLAGS PAKISTAN'S ECONOMIC BODY OVER OPAQUE DECISIONS, MILITARY ROLE AND FAILED INVESTMENTS

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan's bid to revive its troubled economy has been hit by fresh scrutiny from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which has raised concerns about the transparency, structure and authority of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), CNN News18 reported, citing a source familiar with IMF discussions. The council, co-chaired by Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, was created to fast-track foreign investment but has struggled to deliver results.

The IMF has reportedly questioned how decisions are made inside the SIFC and who ultimately exercises control over major economic matters. The insider described to CNN News18 the council's operations as "not transparent", raising concerns about unclear mechanisms and lack of accountability.

The Fund has also asked Pakistan to publicly disclose the SIFC's annual performance, including verifiable investment data. Officials are concerned that because the SIFC lacks constitutional protection, it cannot be held responsible for the economic consequences of its decisions.

IMF pressure on the SIFC raises the stakes for Pakistan's bailout negotiations. Without visible reforms, transparency, and accountability in the council's functioning.

POPE LEO XIV ON HIS WAY TO LEBANON



Diary Times Desk : Just after 3 p.m. (local time), the Ita Airways Airbus A320neo carrying Pope Leo XIV departed from Istanbul–Atatürk International Airport bound for Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, where the Pope will remain until Tuesday, 2 December, for the second leg of his first apostolic journey.

The Pope’s 4–day visit to Türkiye
Thus, the Pope’s four–day visit to Türkiye comes to its conclusion. Amongst the highlights of the visit is the commemoration, together with the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and heads and representatives of Christian Churches around the world, of the 1700th anniversary of the first ecumenical council in history, held in Nicaea, today ‘znik.

On that occasion, Pope Leo called for overcoming “the scandal of divisions” and asked everyone to foster “unity.”

Upon his arrival at Beirut airport, which is named after former Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, who was killed together with his security officials in an attack on 14 February 2005, the Pope will be received by the Apostolic Nuncio and the Head of Protocol of Lebanon.

TENS OF THOUSANDS RALLY IN EUROPE, DEMANDING JUSTICE OVER ISRAEL’S GAZA WAR

Diary Times Desk : Tens of thousands of people have marched in cities across Europe, denouncing Israel’s genocidal war on Gaza and demanding tougher global action against its continued and deadly violations of a United States–brokered ceasefire.

The demonstrations, held to mark the United Nations International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on Saturday, came as the death toll from Israel’s war on Gaza surpassed 70,000 people. They also waved Palestinian flags while denouncing “Israeli genocide”.

UKRAINE HITS TANKERS IN BLACK SEA IN ESCALATION AGAINST RUSSIA

Diary Times Desk : Ukrainian naval drones hit two oil tankers from Russia’s so–called “shadow fleet” as they travelled through the Black Sea, Ukrainian officials have said.

Footage verified by the BBC shows waterborne drones speeding through the waves into the vessels, before detonating into a ball of flame, sending black smoke into the air.

The targeted tankers were named by Turkish authorities as the Kairos and Virat, both flagged to the Gambia. Both were hit off the Turkish coast on Friday, with the Virat reportedly struck again on Saturday. No casualties were reported.

The attacks appear to be an escalation by Kyiv as it tries to hit Russia’s oil revenues, which are critical for funding its war in Ukraine.

UN REPORT CONDEMNS HAMAS ATTACK, ACCUSES ISRAEL OF TORTURE AS STATE POLICY

Diary Times Desk : The UN Committee against Torture has issued its findings on Israel and three other nations – Albania, Argentina, and Bahrain – and raised concerns on each country’s implementation of the Convention against torture and degrading treatment.

Here’s your 10–point cheatsheet to this big story

1.The committee began by unequivocally condemning the attack perpetrated by Hamas and other groups on October 7, 2023 against Israel. It also expressed its deep concern over the disproportionate nature of Israel’s response to these attacks, which it said has resulted in a massive loss of life and profound suffering for the Palestinian people.

1.“Material conditions across all places of deprivation of liberty in the State Party have severely deteriorated as a result of what appears to be, in the light of high–level statements made by the Minister of National Security and others, a deliberate State policy of collective punishment...” the committee said.



BANGLADESH EX-PM KHALEDA ZIA IN ‘CRITICAL CONDITION’; MUHAMMAD YUNUS EXPRESSES CONCERN

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh’s former prime minister and opposition leader Khaleda Zia remains in “very critical” condition at a Dhaka hospital, her party said on Sunday, as her exiled son and acting party chief Tarique Rahman signaled uncertainty over his return.

Khaleda, 80, was admitted to a private hospital on November 23 with a severe chest infection affecting her heart and lungs, doctors and senior Bangladesh Nationalist Party officials said.

Her deteriorating health comes at a sensitive time for her political party, which has regained prominence after Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh’s long–serving former prime minister, was ousted in a student–led uprising last year.

ISLAMABAD SIGNALS GAZA DEPLOYMENT AS PART OF PEACE FORCE, DRAWS RED LINE ON HAMAS DISARMAMENT

Diary Times Desk : Pakistan is prepared to send troops to the International Stabilisation Force (ISF) in Gaza, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar said on Saturday, emphasising that the country would not take part in disarming Palestinian resistance groups, Dawn reported.

Speaking at a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dar said the matter of Hamas’ disarmament first came up during a meeting in Riyadh on the two–state solution. “We are not ready for that. This is not our job, but of the Palestinian law enforcement agencies.

Our job is peacekeeping, not peace enforcement. We are definitely ready to contribute to the force – the prime minister has in principle already announced after consultation with the field marshal that we will contribute – but this decision cannot be taken until it is decided what its [ISF] mandate and TOR (terms of reference) will be,” he said.

Dar added, “As per my information, if it will include disarming Hamas, then even my Indonesian counterpart has informally expressed his reservation.”

The announcement comes as the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) last week endorsed a US–brokered Gaza Peace Agreement, which calls for the establishment of the ISF composed mainly of troops from Muslim–majority countries. The resolution, passed with 13 votes in favour and abstentions from Russia and China, authorises the international force to stabilise Gaza and oversee its reconstruction, although Hamas has rejected the plan.

THOUSANDS MARCH IN PHILIPPINES, DEMANDING MARCOS RESIGN OVER FRAUD SCANDAL

Diary Times Desk : Tens of thousands of people have marched in the Philippine capital, Manila, demanding President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's resignation over a corruption scandal linked to government spending on flood-control infrastructure. The rally, organised by the Kilusang Bayan Kontra-Kurakot or the People's Movement Against Corruption (KBKK), began at the Luneta National Park in Manila on Sunday, with protesters marching on to the presidential palace.

Some carried an effigy of Marcos and Vice President Sara Duterte, depicting the politicians as crocodiles and dubbed the "corrupt-codile", while others held signs that read "Marcos Resign" and "All corrupt politicians must be held accountable".

Organisers said they estimated the crowd to be more than 20,000. It is the last display of public anger over the "Trillion-Peso" scandal, in which powerful politicians, including Marcos's allies, are accused of pocketing billions of pesos in bribes for contracts on flood-control infrastructure that ended up being defective or were never built at all.

**AFGHAN MAN ARRESTED AFTER HE THREATENED TO BOMB BUILDING IN TEXAS**

Diary Times Desk : The Afghan national, who was arrested a day before the Wednesday shooting near White House, has been charged at the state level with making a terrorist threat in Texas, Fox News reported.

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) told Fox News that Mohammad Dawood Alokozay was taken into custody on Tuesday after he posted a video on TikTok allegedly indicating he was building a bomb with the intent to target a building in the Fort Worth area in Texas.

Alokozay had migrated to the US under the "Operation Allies Welcome" during Joe Biden's tenure, after the chaotic withdrawal of US forces in Afghanistan. Notably, suspect Rahmanullah Lakanwal (29), being charged with first-degree murder for allegedly shooting two National Guard members near the White House, also migrated to the US in 2021 under the same programme.

TURKEY'S UNMANNED JET MAKES HISTORY WITH RADAR-GUIDED AIR-TO-AIR KILL

Diary Times Desk : Turkey tested the unmanned fighter jet Kizilelma to accurately and successfully target an aircraft using an air-to-air missile through radar guidance, scripting global combat aviation history.

In the test conducted off the coast of Sinop firing range, Kizilelma destroyed a jet-powered aerial target identified by Aselsan's Murad Aesa radar with a Beyond Visual Range air-to-air Gokdogan missile, marking a breakthrough in unmanned combat capabilities.

Indigenously developed by Baykar, Kizilelma flew with five F-15 fighter jets. The high-speed jet-powered target was detected and tracked by the Murad Aesa radar located on the Kizilelma. It then fired the Gokdogan missile located under its wing. The launched missile directly hit the target drone, CNN reported.

TRUMP INVOKES 212(F) TO DEFEND 'PERMANENT PAUSE' ON THIRD WORLD MIGRATION AS US FREEZES ASYLUM, AFGHAN VISAS

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump on Saturday defended his decision to 'permanently pause migration from all Third World countries', insisting he is acting within his powers under Section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act even as multiple UN agencies urged the US to keep its asylum system open.

Trump cited 212(f) to justify a sweeping halt on asylum decisions and a State Department freeze on visas for all Afghan passport-holders, saying the moves are necessary to protect national security. The White House amplified the same legal provision on X, underscoring that the president can suspend the entry of 'any class of aliens' deemed detrimental to US interests.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Director Joseph Edlow confirmed that asylum officers have been instructed to stop issuing decisions until new 'enhanced vetting' is in place. Secretary of State Marco Rubio separately announced the pause on Afghan visas.

"IMRAN KHAN IS ALIVE": LAWMAKER SAYS REGIME PRESSURING HIM TO LEAVE PAKISTAN

Diary Times Desk : Refuting the rumours about Imran Khan's death, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Khurram Zeeshan on Saturday said the former Prime Minister is alive and currently lodged in Adiala jail.

He added that Khan is being kept in isolation as a tactic to pressure him into leaving Pakistan.

Speaking to ANI from Pakistan, Khurram Zeeshan, who is affiliated with Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said the regime in the country is threatened and scared of Imran Khan's popularity, which is why they have not allowed any pictures or videos of him to be released.

Earlier this week, several social media handles from Afghanistan claimed that Imran Khan had been murdered inside Rawalpindi's jail. The rumours have coincided with the Pakistani authorities not allowing Imran's sisters to meet him for the past month, despite court orders.

7 EXPLOSIONS IN 24 HOURS SPARK FEAR, PANIC IN BALOCHISTAN

Diary Times Desk : At least seven explosions have occurred in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province in the last 24 hours without any casualties being reported while two security guards of a construction company were injured. Suspected insurgents carried out the attacks in Balochistan capital Quetta and Dera Murad Jamali.

On Saturday, insurgents hurled hand grenades at a police checkpoint in Quetta, following which an IED explosive was detonated near an Anti-Terrorism Department vehicle. Three other explosions were carried out later in the evening.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Asif Khan said that the blast was carried out near Lohr Karez, on the outskirts of Quetta, blowing up the main line connecting Quetta with other parts of the country.

SSP Khan said miscreants planted IED devices on the railway track and blew them when a train was scheduled to reach Quetta station. The blast caused damage to the track, leading to the suspension of railway traffic.

A patrolling police vehicle also came under attack in Dera Murad Jamali, with attackers hurling hand grenades.

SSP Khan said armed men had also attacked a construction company site on Quetta's Sariab road with hand grenades, which damaged machinery and injured two security guards.

HONG KONG FIRE DEATH TOLL RISES TO 146 AS THOUSANDS PAY RESPECTS



Diary Times Desk :At least 146 people are now known to have died in the devastating fire that tore through high-rise buildings in Hong Kong on Wednesday. Police announced the new death toll on Sunday, cautioning that they "cannot rule out the possibility of further fatalities". There still 150 people missing, and the blaze left 79 injured. Seven of eight tower blocks at the Wang Fuk Court housing complex in the northerly Tai Po district rapidly went up in flames. Accusations that the fire was spread by flammable construction materials have sparked widespread anger. Three days of national mourning started on Saturday, and thousands have gathered at the scene to mourn the victims. There have been queues stretching a long as 2km (1.2 miles), as people wait to lay flowers and handwritten notes. Indonesian worker Romlah Rosidah said she was "very surprised" at how many people had turned up to pray for the victims.

TRUMP CALL TO SHUT VENEZUELA AIRSPACE DRAWS CARACAS FURY AND QUESTIONS OVER US INTENT

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump on Saturday said that the airspace "above and surrounding" Venezuela should be considered as "closed in its entirety," an assertion that raised more questions about the US pressure on Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro. His government accused Trump of making a "colonial threat" and seeking to undermine the South American country's sovereignty. The White House did not respond to questions about what Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, and it was unclear whether he was announcing a new policy or simply reinforcing the messaging around his campaign against Maduro, which has involved multiple strikes in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean on small boats accused of ferrying drugs as well as a buildup of naval forces in the region. More than 80 people have been killed in such strikes since early September.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU SEEKS PARDON FROM ISRAEL'S PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked the country's President, Isaac Herzog, for a pardon over corruption cases he has been battling. The president's office said Herzog would receive opinions from justice officials before considering the request "which carries with it significant implications". Netanyahu has been standing trial for the past five years on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust in connection with three separate cases. He denies wrongdoing. He said in a video message that he would have preferred to see the process to the end but national interest "demanded otherwise". The Israeli opposition says he should admit guilt before seeking a pardon. Early this month, US President Donald Trump urged Herzog to "fully pardon" Netanyahu.

FINLAND TO WIND DOWN EMBASSIES IN PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, MYANMAR BY 2026

Diary Times Desk : Finland has begun formal preparations to close its embassies in Islamabad, Kabul and Yangon in 2026 as part of a major overhaul of its global diplomatic network, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs announced on Friday. The move, the ministry noted, is driven by "operational and strategic reasons" tied to political developments in the three countries and their "limited commercial and economic relations with Finland." In a statement released by the Embassy of Finland in Islamabad, the ministry said the restructuring aims to redirect diplomatic and economic resources toward regions that align more closely with Finland's long-term foreign policy and trade priorities.

"The Ministry for Foreign Affairs is reforming its network of missions abroad," the embassy stated.

FOUR KILLED IN SHOOTING AT FAMILY GATHERING IN CALIFORNIA

Diary Times Desk : At least four people have been killed in a mass shooting at a family gathering in California, authorities say. Ten others were injured in the shooting on Saturday evening at a restaurant in the state's northern city of Stockton. Local police say the victims include both adults and children. The conditions of the injured have not been confirmed.

A suspect is still on the loose and police say they believe the shooting may have been "targeted".

The city's deputy mayor earlier said the shooting had occurred "at a children's birthday party". Police have not confirmed the type of event at which the shooting occurred, beyond it being a family gathering.

The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office said the shooting happened shortly before 18:00 local time (02:00 GMT on Sunday), and is appealing to anyone with "information, video footage, or who may have witnessed any part of the incident" to come forward.

Spokeswoman Heather Brent described the incident as "unfathomable", adding: "This is a very active and ongoing investigation, and information remains limited.

"Early indications suggest this may be a targeted incident, and investigators are exploring all possibilities." Stockton's Mayor Christina Fugazi called the shooting "unacceptable".

MORE THAN 400 KILLED IN INDONESIA FLOODING, OFFICIALS SAY



Diary Times Desk : The death toll from flooding and landslides on Indonesia's Sumatra island has risen dramatically to 442, officials say.

The total passed 300 earlier on Sunday, with evacuation efforts under way, major roads cut off, and internet and electricity only partially restored. Monsoons exacerbated by tropical storms have caused some of the worst flooding in years across South East Asia. Hundreds are dead and missing in Malaysia and Thailand as well, with millions affected across the region. The official death toll in Thailand currently sits at 170, with two deaths reported in Malaysia's northern Perlis state. Elsewhere, there have been nearly 160 deaths in Sri Lanka due to a bout of particularly extreme weather that has caused flooding and mudslides.

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 2019. 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. Now the once-proud chain is in a precarious position; by next year's holiday season, it could finally be gone.

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.

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 analyst Lauren Murphy told CNN.

The legacy department store Macy's is revamping the in-store experience to win over wary shoppers. Budget-friendly Old Navy is leveraging its couture-designer-turned-chief-creative-officer Zac Posen. And even the world's largest retailer, Walmart, is promising a 30-minute turnaround from online order to the delivery truck.



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.

"This is why I am going to Russia today: to make sure Hungary's energy supply remains secure and affordable this winter and in the year ahead," he added.



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 HOTTEST NEW AI COMPANY IS...GOOGLE?

Diary Times Desk :
Google just threw another twist in the fast-changing AI race. And its biggest competitors are taking notice.

"We're delighted by Google's success — they've made great advances in AI and we continue to supply to Google," Nvidia wrote in a November 25 post on X, before adding that "NVIDIA offers greater performance, versatility, and fungibility than ASICs," (the application-specific integrated circuits) like those made by Google.

"Congrats to Google on Gemini 3! Looks like a great model," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman also wrote on X.

The posts came just days after mounting buzz about Google's Gemini 3 model — and the Google-made chips that help to power it.

WALL STREET IS RELYING ON THE SUPREME COURT TO PROTECT THE FED. IS THAT WISHFUL THINKING?

Diary Times Desk :
Wall Street barely blinked at President Donald Trump's attacks on the Federal Reserve this year. But its confidence could be shaken with an upcoming Supreme Court ruling.
Trump has launched an intense pressure campaign against the Fed during his second term, frequently demanding interest-rate cuts and threatening to fire Chair Jerome Powell. The central bank has lowered interest rates twice this year, in September and October, and has another opportunity to cut rates in December.
Yet investors remain confident in the Fed's ability to fight inflation — at least according to measures such as long-term interest rates on US Treasuries and inflation expectations.

If Trump wins, the Fed's vaunted independence to set interest rates without political interference could crumble. But Wall Street seems to believe the Supreme Court will ultimately opt to keep the central bank independent. Markets also seem to believe that none of the names floated to succeed Powell as Fed chair when his term ends in May pose a threat in that regard, either.

WHEN IT MAKES SENSE TO HELP YOUR ADULT KIDS FINANCIALLY — AND WHEN IT DOESN'T

Diary Times Desk :
Spending the holidays with your adult children and the grandkids?
If so, their futures may be on your mind, especially if you sense — or they just flat-out say — they're not flush enough to buy a home, put their own kids through school, or pay off big debts they've acquired.
As a parent, you may wonder if you should help them or if it makes more sense to stay out of it and leave them money after you die, if that's an option. To figure out what is right for you, here are four questions to consider:

1. Can I afford to help?
Think carefully about how much you can comfortably offer.
"It's understandable to want to support your children. (But) balance that emotion with whether you can afford it," said Rob Williams, head of Financial Planning and Wealth Management Research at the Schwab Center for Financial Research.



K-SHAPED ECONOMY AND INFLATION BOOST BLACK FRIDAY SALES BY 4.1% FROM LAST YEAR, ONLINE SPENDING JUMPS 9.1%



Diary Times Desk : US retail sales on Black Friday, the busiest shopping day of the year, climbed 4.1% compared with last year, according to data released Saturday by Mastercard SpendingPulse. Online shoppers alone spent \$11.8 billion, up 9.1% from 2024, according to data collection platform Adobe Analytics.

But those gains don't account for higher prices due to inflation, so actual spending could be flat.
"We have 3% inflation, so maybe (the 4.1% increase in spending) is a real increase of just 1% or so, which is not that much of an increase," Rick Newman, who writes The Pinpoint Press, a newsletter on the US economy, told CNN on Friday.

There's also a bifurcation in who's spending. The Federal Reserve's most recent Beige Book, a collection of anecdotes about the economy, showed consumer spending among low- and middle-income consumers is on the decline. Meanwhile, the Fed found high-end consumers are continuing to spend — including on luxury items and travel.
Consumers have bought fewer items this holiday season, but the average selling prices are higher, according to Claudia Lombana, a national consumer expert.

"The ones that have higher income are spending at will, but those who are less affluent are budgeting," Lombana told CNN's Omar Jimenez on Saturday.
"The story of the economy right now is it's a bifurcated economy. If you're lucky enough to own stocks and own a home, you're part of the upper slant of that cave, that K-shaped economy ... you're going to be comfortable spending a fair amount of money this year," Newman said.

MAJOR MISHAP
AVERTED: WOMAN
SLIPS WHILE BOARDING
MOVING TRAIN AT
PANIPAT STATION; GRP
CONSTABLE RESCUES
HER

Diary Times Desk : A major accident was averted on Sunday afternoon at Panipat railway station, when a woman passenger – who slipped while trying to board a moving train – was saved just in time by a GRP constable. The CCTV footage of the incident also went viral on social media.

The incident occurred around 3.30 pm. As passenger train number 64454, travelling from Kurukshetra to Delhi, arrived at platform number 1, passengers began boarding and alighting.

During this time, a woman passenger aged around 45-50 years, travelling alone, placed her luggage inside the coach and was about to board when the train started moving. As the speed increased, she lost her balance, and her foot slipped dangerously between the coach and the platform.

GRP constable Jagrup Singh, who was on duty, noticed the woman in danger, rushed forward, grabbed her firmly, and pulled her to safety. His timely and courageous action prevented what could have been a serious accident.

MEDIA CHAPUAL
LAUNCHED AT
HARYANA PAVILION IN
KURUKSHETRA

Diary Times Desk : During the 10th International Gita Mahotsav, Kurukshetra University's Institute of Mass Communication and Media Technology introduced Media Chaupal for the first time at the Haryana Pavilion.

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, former Minister of State Subhash Sudha and several other dignitaries visited the Media Chaupal on Saturday.

Khattar commended the initiative, noting that the Haryana Pavilion and the newly set up Media Chaupal had created a significant platform for presenting the state's cultural heritage and disseminating the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT NATIONAL RESOLVE, NOT SLOGAN, FOR GROWTH: CM

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has said the dream of Atmanirbhar Bharat is not just a slogan, but a resolve to make India a leading economic power in the 21st century. He was addressing the Atmanirbhar Bharat Conference in Panchkula today.

The essence of Atmanirbhar Bharat lay in self-reliance in industry, agriculture, education, skills, technology and trade, he said, adding that the five vital pillars of economy, infrastructure, system, demography and demand formed the strong foundation of nation-building. "Haryana is playing a key role in strengthening all these pillars," said Saini.

Speaking on the agriculture sector, he said Haryana had played a leading role in making the country self-reliant in food grain production, and the state was promoting diversification and the production of pulses and oilseeds.



DRIVING LICENCE VALID FOR 30
DAYS AFTER EXPIRY, ACCIDENT ON
LAST DAY OF GRACE PERIOD
COVERED: HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ruled that a driving licence stays valid for 30 days after its expiry, while holding that an accident even on the 30th and final day of the grace period remains fully covered for insurance purposes.

The ruling came as Justice Virinder Aggarwal dismissed an appeal by an insurance company seeking recovery rights on the ground that the driver's licence had expired a month before the accident. The Court noted that the Motor Vehicles Act explicitly grants a 30-day extension, during which an otherwise expired licence continues to remain valid.

Citing the statutory mandate, the court reproduced the proviso to Section 14 of the Motor Vehicles Act as saying: "Provided that every driving licence shall, notwithstanding its expiry under this sub-section, continue to be effective for a period of thirty days from such expiry."

HAVAN, CULTURAL
PERFORMANCES MARK 2ND DAY
OF GITA MAHOTSAV IN SIRSA

Diary Times Desk : The district-level celebration of the International Gita Mahotsav-2025 began in Sirsa on Saturday with a traditional havan and Vedic chanting. The four-day festival, being held at the multipurpose hall of Chaudhary Devi Lal University, featured vibrant cultural performances on its second day.

Former Chief Minister's Political Advisor Jagdish Chopra and former MP Sunita Duggal visited the exhibition set up by various departments. They urged officials to ensure that information on government welfare schemes reaches the public so more people can benefit. Sirsa Municipal Council Chairman Shanti Swaroop was also present.

Dr Subhash Chandra, CEO of the District Council and the festival's nodal officer, welcomed the guests and highlighted the significance of the annual event.

KHATTAR VISITS KURUKSHETRA, SAYS GITA'S TEACHINGS FOR ENTIRE
HUMANKIND



Diary Times Desk : Addressing a gathering on the occasion of Virat Sant Sammelan as part of the International Gita Mahotsav here on Saturday, Union minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the teachings of the Gita were not just for Indians, but the entire humankind.

"The Gita is the source of peace provided on a battlefield, making it a unique text. Its teachings are as relevant now as they were during the Mahabharata war. Just like the Sikh community reveres Guru Granth Sahib as the Guru, as RSS swayamsewaks and pracharakas, we were taught that the saffron flag is our guru," he said, adding that the International Gita Mahotsav celebrations would be expanded in the coming years.

Drones have already revolutionized warfare.
They're about to do it again

"Invention, it must be humbly admitted, does not consist in creating out of void, but out of chaos." Mary Shelley, "Frankenstein," 1818.

"War is chaos. It always has been. But technology makes it worse. It changes the fear." Pierce Brown, "Golden Son," 2015.

Drones – and artificial intelligence – have reshaped the modern battlefield and are about to do so again. Nowhere is that more evident than in Ukraine.

Invaded by Russia in 2022, outmanned and outgunned by one of the world's strongest militaries, Kyiv quickly proved that drones – in the air, on the ground, and at sea – could hold off a Russian victory that many expected within weeks, if not days.



Cheaper and easier to build than manned vehicles, and in some cases more effective, drones are a military planner's dream – and greatly reduce the risk of a pilot or operator being killed in action.

Brad Lendon
But drones came to the forefront of warfare relatively recently, some analysts say, with the 2020 conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh a major turning point.

Much like the Kalashnikov rifle in the previous century, mass adoption of drones became an asymmetric weapon of choice for forces facing long odds in global warfare, such as the Hamas militant group in Gaza; anti-junta rebels in Myanmar's civil war; and the militaries of poorer nations, including many in Africa.

But the Goliaths have caught up, while – according to one report – drug cartels the world over are innovating, improving and adapting drones to fight the narco-wars of the future. "It's like gunpowder. That's how insanely it's changed the war," Patrick Shepherd, a former US Army officer, said of the advent of cheap aerial drones.

It's invention from chaos, as myriad regional conflagrations coincide with an era of unparalleled technological advance.

It's probably just the beginning.

The evolution of drones

Drones aren't a recent invention. Britain and the United States experimented with radio-controlled unmanned aircraft during World War I, according to the Imperial War Museum in London.

"We were flying hundreds of drones over North Vietnam during the war," said Russ Lee, a curator in the aeronautics department at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington. During that Southeast Asian conflict in 1960s and early '70s, US forces began using drones for many of the same missions we see today – reconnaissance or carrying munitions, or for use as decoys and psy-ops platforms, according to the Imperial War Museum.

The US began widespread use of drones during Operation Desert Storm, the response to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Tomahawk land-attack missile – a cruise missile but also an unmanned aerial vehicle as it can change course and target in-flight – saw its first combat in 1991.



Australia's About To Find Out

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU KICK MILLIONS OF TEENS OFF SOCIAL MEDIA?

It's August, and a show of hands in an auditorium filled with 300 students at All Saints Anglican School in Australia shows that few of the Grade 9 and 10 students sitting in plush red seats had heard of the country's impending ban on social media, much less how to prepare for it.



Hilary Whiteman

Yoti advises social media platforms including Meta about their age verification options. The group now has 12 methods, including phone, email, and ID checks, and the list is growing. Age-restricted sites give users a choice about which method they'd prefer.

"It's very important to save photos," Kirra Pendergast, founder of cyber safety organization Ctrl+Shift, lectures from the stage. "You need to prepare."

An alarmed murmur spreads around the room as the students realize what's about to be lost. "Can you get your account back when you turn 16?" one girl asks. "What if I lie about my age?" asks another.

Less than two weeks before the ban, we have more answers.

From December 10, sites



"People have basically thought, what is it we do offline? Do we let young people into strip clubs, into bars, buying alcohol, buying cigarettes? What are the norms that we have and what are the norms that we want to have online?"

that meet the Australian government's definition of an "age-restricted social media platform" will need to show that they're doing enough to eject or block children under 16 or face fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$32 million).

The list includes Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Threads, TikTok, Twitch, X, and YouTube. The government says it's protecting children from potentially harmful content; the sites say they're already building safer systems.

Meta says it'll start deactivating accounts and blocking new Facebook, Instagram and Threads accounts from December 4. Under-16s are being encouraged to download their content.

Snap says users can deactivate their accounts for up to three years, or until they turn 16. Snap streaks – the daily swapping of photos of ordinary life, vacations, walls, foreheads, anything to signal an online presence – will end.

There's another sting in the ban, too, coming at the end of the Australian school year before the summer break in the southern hemisphere. For eight weeks, there'll be no school, no teachers – and no scrolling.

For millions of children, it could be the first school break they spend in years without the company of time-killing social media algorithms, or an easy way to contact their friends. Even for parents who support the ban, it could be a very long summer.

Other countries around the world are taking notes as Australia explores new territory that some say mirrors safety evolutions of years past – the dawning realization that maybe cars need safety belts, and that perhaps cigarettes should come with some kind of health warning.

As with any seismic step in social policy, there are cheer squads, naysayers and those who don't care what Australia – a country known to love rules – is doing to (and for) its children.

INFA

A Blue Schoolbag In A Mass Grave

SRI LANKA'S BLOODY PAST IS RE-EMERGING FROM THE SOIL

Two human skeletons lie entangled on the rough earth – the arms of one wrapped around the other's head, as though protecting them from danger. Simply known as numbers 177 and 178, their identities remain a mystery.



Helen Regan

Tamils, who have lived in the north and east of Sri Lanka for thousands of years, are primarily followers of Hinduism, with a significant Christian minority population, but the commission determined that the fact the bodies were buried naked rules out customary Hindu burials. "There is a reasonable likelihood that the burials were unlawful and pursuant to extrajudicial killings," it said.

They are among 240 human skeletal remains, including children and babies, uncovered at this mass gravesite in Chemmani in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna district.

"This place is a crime scene no entry," reads a sign at the entrance.

Numbered white cards placed alongside the bones mark how many skeletons have been found since digging began in May of this year, reviving decades-old allegations of wartime atrocities and cover-ups.

In the heartland of the country's ethnic Tamil minority, a bloody and brutal history is re-emerging from the soil. But it is difficult to bury the past entirely.

From 1983 to 2009, the South Asian island nation of 21 million endured a brutal civil war between the Sri Lankan army and the separatist militant group the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). More commonly known as the Tamil Tigers, the group was listed as a terrorist organization by many countries including the United States.

The war was fought along ethnic lines, pitting the majority Buddhist Sinhalese state against the predominantly Hindu ethnic minority rebels fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east after years of anti-Tamil violence. The Tigers were ultimately defeated.

Atrocities were committed by both sides, according to the United Nations, which estimates up to 100,000 people were killed in the conflict, with thousands of others forcibly disappeared.

Sixteen years after the war ended, families of the victims and missing are still fighting for justice and accountability.

"One day the truth will come," said V S Niranjan, a lawyer representing relatives of people who went missing in Jaffna.

A blue school bag

Just a stone's throw from a main road, the Chemmani gravesite is one of more than 20 mass graves identified in Sri Lanka.

Many of the gravesites that pockmark the north and east of the country are believed to contain the victims of atrocities committed during the civil war. Caught between warring rebel fighters and the Sri Lankan army, the Tamil community in these regions bore the brunt of the violence.

The military occupied Jaffna from 1995 until the end of the war. Chemmani first gained international attention in 1998 when Sri Lankan soldier former Lance Cpl. Somaratne Rajapakse, who was on trial for the rape and murder of schoolgirl Krishanthi Kumaraswamy, confessed that hundreds of Tamils had been buried there after the Sri Lankan army retook Jaffna.

For decades, the mass grave remained hidden until construction workers clearing land in the grounds of a Hindu cemetery in February unearthed human skeletal remains.

Their discovery prompted a court-ordered forensic excavation of the site in May and June, which initially uncovered 19 skeletons. Since then, the bones of hundreds more people have been found.

A baby's milk bottle, a blue schoolbag, bangles and cloth fragments have been uncovered alongside the bones.

More than 90% of the remains had no form of clothing. The bodies were buried in a disordered way, heaped together in shallow graves of 1.5-2 feet, according to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, an independent national body that investigates violations of fundamental rights.



THE ART OF SALOUA RAOUDA CHOUCAIR: 'SHE HAD THAT MODERNIST SENSE OF THE FUTURE AND WANTED US TO LEAP INTO IT'

Diary Times Desk : In 1951, a young Lebanese woman studying in Paris was provoked into writing to the literary critic Musa Sulaiman: 'Having read your book and taken note of your personal opinions... I am prompted to make a few observations that may have some benefit.' What followed was a five-page discourse on art from a Middle Eastern perspective. The text, titled 'How the Arab Understood Visual Art', became, somewhat unexpectedly for the writer, the basis of a radical Arab modernism.

Today, Saloua Raouda Choucair is considered a forerunner of abstraction in the Middle East. Back in the 1950s, however, she was an unknown painter working in the studio of Fernand Léger. Strong-willed and highly intelligent, she had arrived in Paris in 1948 'with a fully formed idea of the art she wanted to make', says her daughter, the artist Hala Schoukair.

Born into a well-to-do family of Druze intellectuals in Beirut in 1916, Saloua Raouda Choucair was the youngest of three children. Her father, a pharmacist, died of typhoid when Choucair was a year old, so it was her mother, the headstrong Zalfa, who encouraged her children's interests. At the American Junior College for Women (later the Beirut College for Women), Choucair studied natural sciences, and it is tempting to see traces of the geometry of nature and its rhythms in the interlocking forms and patterns of her later sculptures.

It was on a trip to Egypt during the Second World War that Choucair became absorbed by Islamic architecture and design, and these formed the foundations of her theory that the origins of non-objective art lay not in Europe, but in the Arab world. 'Kandinsky's studies of the point and the line,' she noted, 'are studies that the Muslim artist undertook in the first century.'

In Beirut, she took art classes with the Lebanese painter Omar Onsi, then moved to Paris to study at the conservative Ecole des Beaux-Arts. However, she was drawn to the Left Bank bohemia of Sonia Delaunay, Nelly van Doesburg and a group of ambitious young painters, such as Victor Vasarely and Jean Dewasne, who assembled at the Atelier d'Art Abstrait.

She met Le Corbusier and was taken by his scrupulous observance of the laws of perspective in his modular architecture. Inspired by his democratic approach to living, she resolved to shake off the last vestiges of her classical art education.



HOW LIVING IN THE FRENCH COUNTRYSIDE HELPED SHAPE THE ART OF LES LALANNE

Diary Times Desk : 'The supreme art,' François-Xavier Lalanne once declared, 'is the art of living.' He and his wife, Claude Lalanne — known together as 'Les Lalanne' — created nature-inspired objects that were intended to be incorporated into everyday life.

Despite the collective moniker, their collaborations were rare. Instead, they shared a life together, working separately but alongside one another for nearly 50 years at their maison atelier in the rural village of Ury, south of Paris. It was there that their ideas flourished and they practised the art of living to the fullest.

'François used to tell me that works of art were meant to be a part of everyday lives,' wrote Marie Lalanne, the couple's daughter. 'Theirs weren't sacred objects but rather companions for living, with which to interact and converse.' If art was meant to be integrated into the everyday, Ury was Les Lalanne's personal testing ground.

Throughout their home and in the surrounding gardens, one might encounter a bronze bird doubling as a lamp, a glass tabletop suspended on the horns of a ram, or a monumental monkey standing sentry in the courtyard. These creations, dotted throughout Les Lalanne's own spaces, were a testament to the joy of living with their art.

Up until her death in 2019, Claude maintained a strict schedule, working out of her studio each day, surrounded by family, friends and assistants. The flora and fauna of Ury became the model for her work. Hence her tableware incorporating the forms of snails and butterflies, and her benches wreathed in gilt-bronze branches punctuated by galvanised copper leaves. In each instance, Claude's affinity for nature is underpinned by a capricious humour.

François-Xavier, too, produced playful works inspired by the natural world. 'François had two workshops,' noted Darius Metcalf, a member of the Lalanne family who worked in the atelier, 'one where he sculpted clay, and another, larger one where he worked with metal.' A life-size bronze bull sculpture might open to reveal a secret compartment, the space inside crafted to hold barware, as in *Taureau I Bar* (1994), or a rhinoceros might transform into an elaborate desk, as in *Rhinocrétaire I* (1964). Ury was, in many ways, isolated from society, and yet Les Lalanne's enduring friendships with artists and close bonds with their four daughters made for a rich community. Nearby were Teeny and Marcel Duchamp — as well as Teeny's daughter from her first marriage, Jackie, granddaughter of Henri Matisse. Jackie and Claude became close friends, as did their children.



BARCELONA HEAVYWEIGHT SET TO START VS ATLETICO MADRID
AFTER RETURNING AGAINST ALAVES



Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona superstar Pedri made his return to action against Deportivo Alaves after a month out with a hamstring injury.

The 23-year-old midfielder was not ready to start a game and only featured as a substitute, coming on as a substitute in the 60th minute.

Pedri to start against Atletico Madrid
Having gotten some minutes under his belt on Saturday, Pedri is all set to start for Barcelona in the all-important game against Atletico Madrid next week, reports SPORT.

The fixture against Atletico is crucial in the fight for the La Liga title. Beyond competing with Real Madrid, the Rojiblanco sit three points behind Barcelona, so Hansi Flick's side can make a statement and leave them six points adrift.

BARCELONA SCOUT 20-YEAR-OLD
BUNDESLIGA WINGER DURING RECENT
INTERNATIONAL BREAK

Diary Times Desk :
Hansi Flick has reportedly requested FC Barcelona to strengthen the squad with three new signings in the summer of 2026 – a striker, a centre-back, and a winger.

While the possibility of signing Marcus Rashford permanently remains, a decision will be made at the end of the season, based on how he performs for the rest of the campaign.

Meanwhile, Barcelona will continue to monitor the market for targets, with the Bundesliga seemingly emerging as an attractive market for the Catalans.

Barcelona scout Antonio Nusa

Indeed, after having shown an interest in Yan Diomande and Assan Ouedraogo of RB Leipzig, it appears that Barça have taken a liking to another player from the Bundesliga outfit.

According to Alfredo Martinez of SPORT, Barcelona scouted RB Leipzig winger Antonio Nusa during the recent international break, when he was in action for Norway.

HOW THE COPA LIBERTADORES FINAL
RESULT DENIED BARCELONA A €1 MILLION
WINDFALL

Diary Times Desk : Vitor Roque has done well since leaving Barcelona for Palmeiras and has become a regular starter for the top South American club.

On Saturday, his team took on Flamengo in the final of the Copa Libertadores, and Roque even started the game, hoping to lead his team to the coveted international title.

Unfortunately for Palmeiras, however, they did not find a response to Danilo's 67th-minute goal for Flamengo and went on to lose the game and the title.

Consequences for Barcelona

As relayed by Mundo Deportivo, the defeat of Palmeiras and Roque also had consequences for Barcelona as it denied them of €1 million in variables that they would have received had the result gone the other way.

When Barcelona sold Tigrinho to Palmeiras for €25.5 million, they retained 20% of his rights and also included €5 million in variables that could be activated by diverse paths.

BARCELONA CAPTAIN DEEPLY
AFFECTED BY MISTAKE VS
CHELSEA; GIVEN A BREAK TO
REST

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona and Hansi Flick do not have long to reset after the win over Deportivo Alaves, for they next face a giant in La Liga as they play host to Atletico Madrid on Tuesday.

The Catalans will look to take all three points over Los Rojiblanco and cement their position as a team that are recovering their best version, although it will not be easy given how Diego Simeone's side have improved over the past month.

For Barcelona, the big boost will be the return of Frenkie de Jong, and likely Pedri, as starters on the night, with even Raphinha likely to start after his stellar showing on Saturday. The doubt, however, is Ronald Araujo.

Far more than gastroenteritis
Ronald Araujo missed Barcelona's clash yesterday evening due to a stomach virus, as confirmed by the club.

As relayed by AS, the player is still not training at the club facilities, and the reason is far beyond the medical basis claimed.

The Spanish outlet reports that Araujo is deeply affected by the events that unfolded at Stamford Bridge and the manner in which his red card cost the team dearly once again.

BARCELONA MIDFIELD STAR
WILL RETURN VS ATLETICO
MADRID, DEFENDER SET TO
MISS OUT AGAIN

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona went into their game against Deportivo Alaves on Saturday evening with some notable absences.

Ronald Araujo was not a part of the squad as he was out with a stomach bug. Meanwhile, key midfielder Frenkie de Jong also missed the match due to personal reasons.

De Jong back, still no Araujo

As Barcelona get set to take on Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, there is mixed news for the team, with regard to De Jong and Araujo's availability.

According to Javi Miguel of AS, De Jong will be available on Tuesday against Atletico Madrid, but Araujo will not be ready.

It should be remembered that the midfield superstar withdrew from the game against Alaves at the new Spotify Camp Nou at the last minute on Saturday due to personal issues.

BARCELONA'S EXPLANATION FOR HANSI FLICK'S DEJECTED APPEARANCE
AFTER VICTORY OVER ALAVES

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona bounced back from their midweek loss to Chelsea by defeating Deportivo Alaves 3-1 at the Spotify Camp Nou on Saturday evening.

However, manager Hansi Flick was not fully pleased with the performance and insisted there is still a lot of room for improvement.

Amidst all this, an image of the German tactician sitting on the bench after the game with a dejected expression has gone viral.

Flick can be seen visibly frustrated before being approached by Raphinha, with the pair then sharing a small conversation. The image, though, sparked concern among the Barça fanbase, with reports even suggesting that Flick was feeling 'worn out and helpless' after what has been a tough week for the team.

