

NEWS IN BRIEF

**CBI ARRESTS
SUSPECT IN 36-
YEAR-OLD
KIDNAPPING OF
RUBAIYYA SAYEED**

Diary Times Desk : The CBI has arrested a person in connection with the kidnapping of Rubaiyya Sayeed, daughter of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, by JKLF terrorists on December 8, 1989, officials said Monday.

The suspect, a resident of Ishber Nishat, was arrested by the agency for his alleged involvement in the crime 36 years ago, they said.

Sayeed, who was freed five days after her abduction when the then BJP-backed V P Singh government at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange, now lives in Tamil Nadu. She is a prosecution witness for the CBI, which took over the case in the early 1990s.

Yasin Malik, who is a prime accused in the kidnapping case, is lodged in Tihar jail after being sentenced by a special NIA court in May 2023 in a terror-funding case.

**EX-NURSE LOSES
LIFE SAVINGS
WORTH RS 48
LAKH IN DIGITAL
ARREST, 3
ARRESTED**

Diary Times Desk : In yet another case of the "digital arrest" scam, a 75-year-old retired nurse in Andhra Pradesh lost his life's savings, Rs 48 lakh, after he was subjected to intense fear and panic. The district police arrested three accused linked to the multi-state cyber fraud scam. The victim's ordeal began with a sophisticated video call where fraudsters, masquerading as high-ranking officials from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED), instantly fabricated a legal crisis. The fraudsters coerced Repuri Benjamin, a resident of Annamayya district, with a series of false and terrifying claims, including alleging that his PAN card was misused to open illegal bank accounts and a case has been registered against him in Delhi. Claiming that Rs 48 lakh had been illegally deposited into his account through "hawala money," the fraudsters asked Benjamin to immediately return the money to avoid detention.

**PM
MODI****ENJOY THE WEATHER, SAYS PM MODI EVEN AS DELHI
CHOKES ON 'UNHEALTHY' TO 'HAZARDOUS' AIR**

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi, began his remarks to the media before the Parliament Winter Session on Monday with a line that made many eyebrows arch upwards.

"Aap bhi mausam ka mazaa lijiye [You too should enjoy the weather]," he said, before launching into a speech about Parliament not being a place for "drama" but "delivery". The average Delhi resident is unlikely to find much mazaa in the mausam; the national capital woke up to yet another smog-filled morning on Monday.

"In recent weeks the city has repeatedly recorded an air quality index [AQI] in the 'very poor' to 'hazardous' range, some areas registering levels over 440-500, with dangerous spikes in PM2.5 & PM10 concentrations," environmentalist Bhavreen Khandari pointed out to The Telegraph Online.

"For large parts of the year, and even now, Delhi's mausam is less about pleasant winter air and more about choking smog; hardly a backdrop to enjoy, much less to celebrate," Khandari added. Many on the Internet juxtaposed the prime minister's comment with Delhi's AQI levels.

On Monday, Delhi's AQI stood at an 'unhealthy' 245 at 1pm, according to AQI.in. The number was at a 'severe' 383 at 8am on Monday, 1 Dec. It wasn't long ago that the capital's AQI had breached the 'hazardous' 400 mark, 443 to be specific, on 28 November. While the conditions did improve slightly because of winds over the weekend, the AQI has still stayed between 200-350. South Delhi's Nehru Nagar recorded the highest pollution levels Monday with an AQI of 351, while other hotspots including Anand Vihar (323), Burari Crossing (304), Bawana (337), Jahangirpuri (319), Punjabi Bagh (326), Mundka (330), Shadipur (325), and Wazirpur (321), registered AQI readings in the 'very poor' category.

Noida recorded an AQI of 316, while Greater Noida was at 288 and Ghaziabad was at 291. This is the story of the national capital every year when post Diwali, the AQI spikes to hazardous levels. The only difference this year being the visuals of water sprinkler trucks spraying water around the AQI monitoring stations going viral on the internet. Meanwhile, hospitals have reported a surge in patients coming in with respiratory problems, along with severe pulmonary diseases in some cases. They have advised residents to leave the city if they can afford it, or stay indoors whenever possible and constantly use air purifiers.

**TRAFFIC, NOT STUBBLE BURNING, KEEP DELHI AIR
'SEVERE': REPORT**

Diary Times Desk : Even with farm fires at a multi-year low, Delhi-NCR's winter air remains suffocating. For most of October and November, pollution levels hovered between 'very poor' and 'severe', fuelled by a rising "toxic cocktail" of PM2.5, nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and carbon monoxide (CO) emitted mainly from vehicles and other local sources.

At least 22 air-quality monitoring stations in Delhi recorded carbon monoxide (CO) levels above permissible limits on more than 30 of the 59 days assessed, with Dwarka Sector 8 logging the highest number of breaches at 55 days, followed by Jahangirpuri and Delhi University's North Campus, both at 50 days, according to a new analysis by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

The analysis also highlights a troubling proliferation of pollution hotspots in the capital.

In 2018, only 13 locations were officially designated as hotspots. Now, several more locations routinely record pollution levels far higher than the city average. Jahangirpuri emerged as Delhi's most polluted hotspot, with an annual PM2.5 average of 119 micrograms per cubic metre, or micrograms per cubic metre, followed by Bawana and Wazirpur (113 micrograms per cubic metre), Anand Vihar (111 micrograms per cubic metre), and Mundka, Rohini, and Ashok Vihar (101-103 micrograms per cubic metre).

**'FIRST DAY, FIRST SHOW': OMAR ABDULLAH
PRAISES RAMZAN'S STATEMENT IN
PARLIAMENT**

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday welcomed the intervention made by National Conference leader Chowdhary Mohammad Ramzan in the Rajya Sabha, where the issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir was raised on the opening day of the Parliament session.

In a post on social media, Omar Abdullah said Ramzan had used the very first available opportunity in the Upper House to remind the Union government of its commitment to restore statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He described the move as timely and significant, signaling the party's intent to keep the issue alive in Parliament.

The post quoted Ramzan as having said that the elected government in Jammu and Kashmir has been left with "no powers" and that real authority continues to remain with the Lieutenant Governor.

The National Conference also posted a statement asserting that the J&K government has been rendered ineffective and that all major administrative authority rests with the LG.

**E SHINDE'S 'COALITION DHARMA' NOTE AS
'POACHING ROW' ROCKS BJP-LED MAHAYUTI**

Diary Times Desk : With the rift between the Shiv Sena, led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, and the BJP out in the open, in an interview to NDTV, Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde sent a strong message to ally BJP.

"My clear stand is that we fully follow the principles of coalition dharma, and our alliance partners should also follow the same," Eknath Shinde told NDTV.

"This alliance is not something formed yesterday or today-this alliance is built on the ideology and legacy of Balasaheb, Atalji, and Advani ji," Shinde added.

"Our alliance has not been formed for power or positions; it is based on shared ideology and common principles," Shinde said in what is being seen as a very clear message to ally BJP. Several instances of public statements against each other have been made by leaders of the two parties against each other. While they may not be direct attacks, the statements have been politically loaded.

Things seem to have worsened over the last few days as campaigns picked up. The office of Shahajibapu Patil, a former MLA of the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, was raided by the Election Commission's Flying Squad and the Local Crime Branch. The raid took place immediately after Shahajibapu Patil's election rally concluded, during which the police team entered the office while recording video. Shahajibapu Patil has challenged alliance partner BJP in the Sangola election.

IMD

**WEATHER BODY PREDICTS
5 "EXTRA" DAYS OF COLD
WAVE IN NORTH, CENTRAL
INDIA**

Diary Times Desk : Normal to below-normal temperatures are expected in central India and the adjoining northwest and peninsular regions during the three-month winter season, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Monday.

The western Himalayan region, the foothills of the Himalayas, the northeastern states, and parts of eastern and western India may experience above-normal maximum temperatures, IMD Director General Mrutyunjay Mohapatra said in an online press conference.

The IMD is expecting four to five "extra" days of cold wave conditions in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab, and some parts of Maharashtra.

Mohapatra said these areas normally experience four to six days of cold wave conditions during the December to February period. "During the upcoming winter season (December 2025 to February 2026), normal to below-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of central India and adjoining peninsular and northwest India. Above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over the remaining parts of the country," he said.

During the season, maximum temperatures are expected to be normal to below normal across most parts of the country, he added. The season's first spell of cold to severe cold wave conditions started early and was observed only in isolated pockets.

**TOP COURT GRANTS 'FREE
HAND' TO PROBE AGENCY IN
DIGITAL ARREST
INVESTIGATIONS**

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) complete freedom to investigate the role of bankers in digital arrest scams under the Prevention of Corruption Act, adding that it will be the first to probe such cases.

The agency has been given open permission to access phone data, freeze bank accounts and probe bank officials in connection with digital arrest cases.

The top court also directed authorities under the IT Intermediary Rules 2021 to fully cooperate with the CBI during the probe, especially when it comes to sharing data. They have been asked to store mobile phone data for all phones reported for cyber crimes and named in FIRs. Further, it directed states to ensure approval is granted for investigations under the IT Act to ensure that the CBI can conduct large scale operations country wide. Flagging that multiple SIM cards are issued in the same name, the court asked telecom operators to cooperate in the investigation. The Supreme Court has also asked the telecom department to file a reply on how they plan to prevent the misuse of SIM cards.



BIG DECISION IN KARNATAKA TUSSELE SOON? NEW CLAIMS
AHEAD OF 2ND BREAKFAST



Diary Times Desk : The Siddaramaiah-DK Shivakumar tug-of-war over the Karnataka Chief Minister's post - a squabble that has rumbled on since the Congress won the 2023 election - seemed to lurch to an end Monday evening, after party boss Mallikarjun Kharge (finally) put his foot down. Congress sources told NDTV Kharge demanded the warring leaders - to meet for breakfast tomorrow - honour the deal made two years - that Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar will split the five-year term.

Sources said Kharge called for that promise to be upheld, arguing "that word was given in my presence... and it should be honoured. Otherwise, I have no credibility in my own state". This is the second time Mallikarjun Kharge has pushed the Congress to resolve this issue as quickly as possible; last week he called for a settlement before Parliament's winter session.

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She is a prosecution witness for the CBI, which took over the case in the early 1990s. Yasin Malik, who is a prime accused in the kidnapping case, is lodged in Tihar jail after being sentenced by a special NIA court in May 2023 in a terror-funding case.

POST-OP SINDOOR, 'WEAPON DROPS' FROM PAKISTAN UP:
BSF

Diary Times Desk : The trend of weapon-dropping from Pakistan has increased after Operation Sindoor, a senior officer of the Border Security Force, Punjab Frontier, said on Sunday.

He informed that the BSF recovered a large number of arms and ammunition, which were air-dropped through drones coming from the Pakistan side.

BSF Inspector General, Punjab Frontier, Atul Fulzele, was addressing the media in Amritsar on the eve of the 61st Raising Day of the Border Security Force.

Punjab shares 553 km of the international border with Pakistan. The state's six border districts are Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Gurdaspur, Pathankot, Ferozepur and Fazilka. Speaking to the media, Fulzele said, "Particularly, after Operation Sindoor, we have seen that the weapons dropping trend has increased." He mentioned that the BSF troops recovered over 200 different types of weapons, out of which the majority are pistols, and some of them are AK-47 rifles. Not only arms, but the BSF recovered 265 magazines, 3,625 live rounds, 10 kg of explosives, and 12 hand grenades have been recovered this year, the IG said.



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MAN SEEN DANCING WITH DAUGHTER'S LOVER, HE'S NOW ARRESTED FOR HIS MURDER

Diary Times Desk : In April, he was seen dancing with his daughter and her boyfriend. Nearly seven months later, he is in police custody on charges of killing his daughter's boyfriend in Maharashtra's Nanded because he disapproved of their relationship.

His daughter - who now has a heartbreaking moniker attached to her: the woman who married her lover's corpse - has accused her family of betraying her by portraying "all is well" before they killed her boyfriend, Saksham Tate, on Thursday.

On April 14, Aanchal Mamidwar's father, Gajanan Balaji Mamidwar, was seen celebrating Ambedkar Jayanti. He was seen dancing with his 21-year-old daughter, her 20-year-old boyfriend and his friends. The couple looked happy, unaware of the fate that awaited them. In one frame, Gajanan Mamidwar was seen lovingly hugging her daughter, who has now disowned her family and decided to live with her boyfriend's.

MASS VOTER DELETION ALLEGATIONS IN BENGAL "FALSE": POLL BODY TO SUPREME COURT

Diary Times Desk : Allegations of "large-scale voter deletion" in West Bengal are "false" and "fabricated" and an attempt to further vested political interests, the Election Commission has told the Supreme Court in an affidavit. The allegations are being spread as a "narrative" in the media to gain political mileage, the poll body said.

The voter list revision is constitutional, regular and necessary process, the Commission said in the affidavit filed in response to a petition filed on the Special Intensive Revision or SIR issue by Trinamool Congress MP Dola Sen.

The state's ruling Trinamool Congress along with the rest of the Opposition, contends that SIR is just a means to disenfranchise their supporters and ensure a mandate for the BJP. Since SIR was rolled out across the country on November 4, there have been allegations of mass-scale voter name deletion from the list.

The poll body said so far, 99.77 per cent of voters have received forms, 70.14 per cent of those have been filled and returned. Name additions and deletions have become common because of rapid urbanization and massive migration. So the preparation of a clean and accurate electoral roll.

'GPS SPOOFING DIDN'T HIT FLIGHT OPS': CENTRE A MONTH AFTER DELHI AIRPORT CHAOS

Diary Times Desk : GPS spoofing in and around Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) - the country's busiest - didn't disrupt any flight operations, the government said today, even as reports had suggested hundreds of flights were delayed last month due to the glitch.

Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, said that the spoofing incidents occurred during approaches using GPS-based landing procedures on Runway 10, prompting pilots to switch to contingency protocols. Naidu said that multiple flights approaching the airport reported GPS spoofing.

He was replying to a question by MP S Niranjana Reddy. He said that no flights were disrupted as other runways equipped with traditional navigation systems continued to function normally.



SC JUNKS PLEA CHALLENGING DELIMITATION OF MAHARASHTRA LOCAL BODY POLLS

Diary Times Desk : Emphasising that there cannot be "any further impediment" in the conduct of local body polls in Maharashtra, the Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea questioning the validity of the delimitation exercise for zilla parishads, panchayat samitis and other local bodies in the state, making it clear that it will not permit litigation aimed at stalling the electoral process.

"We are not going to entertain any plea that could delay the polls. All these petitions seem to be a ploy to delay the polls. The elections have to happen by January 31, as we directed earlier. There cannot be any further impediment in the conduct of polls," said a bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joydipya Bagchi. The bench noted that once the State Election Commission (SEC) has announced the schedule and the top court itself has passed categorical directions.

AL FALAH UNIVERSITY FOUNDER JAWAD SIDDIQUI SENT TO 14-DAY JUDICIAL CUSTODY

Diary Times Desk : A Delhi court on Monday sent Al Falah University founder Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui to 14-day judicial custody in a terror-linked money laundering case.

Siddiqui had been sent to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) custody for 13 days on November 19.

On Monday, he was produced before Additional Sessions Judge Sheetal Chaudhary Pradhan, who sent him to judicial custody till December 15. During the hearing, the ED counsel briefly argued that it was premature to produce him before the court since the 13-day custody would end at 1 am on Tuesday, technically making Monday the 12th day of his custody.

Meanwhile, an application was moved by Siddiqui's counsel seeking access to prescribed medication and spectacles during the custody period. The judge allowed the request.

BILLS IN LOK SABHA SEEK LEVIES ON TOBACCO, PAN MASALA AFTER GST PHASEOUT

Diary Times Desk : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday moved two new bills in the Lok Sabha that look to repurpose levies on 'sin goods' such as tobacco, pan masala and related products ahead of the scheduled phaseout of the GST compensation cess levied on them.

The Central Excise (Amendment) Bill seeks to levy excise duty on tobacco and related products, while 'The Health Security and National Security Cess Bill, 2025' would be applicable on manufacturing of pan masala and other goods that the government may notify.

The bills, introduced amid din in the Lok Sabha as Opposition members protested demanding a discussion on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, may be taken up for discussion in the House on Tuesday. TMC member Saugata Ray opposed introduction of the two bills.

CONGRESS' 'NOBEL PRIZE' JAB OVER NATIONAL HERALD, BJP'S 'IN PANIC' REPLY

Diary Times Desk : Parliament's winter session began as expected - with the government and opposition exchanging jibes and the consequent chaos forcing an early adjournment. The BJP and arch-rivals Congress squabbled outside too - over senior leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi being charged with criminal conspiracy in the National Herald money laundering case.

Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi mocked the Bharatiya Janata Party for 'conjuring a case (out) of its own twisted mind' and said the charges were 'the BJP' recycled obsession'. The BJP responded with taunts of its own; the party's National General Secretary, Tarun Chugh, told reporters the Congress 'is in a state of panic, frustration, and outcry' over the allegations.



**CHINA CRACKS DOWN ON CALLS
FOR ACCOUNTABILITY OVER
DEADLY HONG KONG BLAZE**

Diary Times Desk : Chinese authorities have arrested several activists and issued a stern warning to "anti-China and pro-chaos elements" amid criticism of the government's response to Hong Kong's deadliest fire in a generation.

Hong Kong's national security police arrested three people over the weekend, state-backed and commercial media reported, as calls mounted for accountability following the city's worst fire in nearly eight decades.

Authorities arrested ex-district Councillor Kenneth Cheung Kam-hung and an unidentified volunteer who managed supplies for survivors on Sunday, according to multiple reports, a day after the arrest of a university student on suspicion of sedition. Cheung was arrested on suspicion of "attempting to incite discord", The Standard newspaper reported.

On Saturday, authorities arrested Miles Kwan, a 24-year-old student at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, after he created an online petition calling for greater transparency and accountability from the government, multiple reports said. The petition included four demands, including the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry to probe the circumstances of the fire, including whether potential conflicts of interest may have contributed to the disaster. Before it was removed from the internet on Saturday, the petition had garnered more than 10,000 supporters. China's national security office in Hong Kong appeared to condemn the petition before its removal, accusing activists of using "the banner of 'petitioning the people' to incite confrontation and tear society apart."

TRUMP DEFENDS ASYLUM FREEZE, CLAIMS BIDEN AND HARRIS SCREWED US

Diary Times Desk : After ordering a sweeping freeze on asylum processing, US President Donald Trump on Sunday defended the move after the arrest of an Afghan immigrant accused of killing a National Guard member near the White House, saying the United States "has enough problems" and may bar asylum for some nations "for a long time".

The president's comments marks latest escalation in his immigration stance following Wednesday's attack that killed Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and critically wounded Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe -- an incident now driving one of the most aggressive tightening of vetting rules since Trump returned to office.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump signalled that more restrictions are coming. "No time limit, but it could be a long time," he said, when asked how long the United States might pause asylum admissions for certain nations.

**FLOODS IN INDONESIA, SRI LANKA,
THAILAND LEAVE OVER 1,000 DEAD**

Diary Times Desk : Flooding and landslides have killed more than 1,000 people across Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia following tropical storms in recent days, with efforts under way to help thousands affected by the extreme weather.

Arriving in North Sumatra on Monday, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto said the government's priority was "how to immediately send the necessary aid".

"There are several isolated villages that, God willing, we can reach," Prabowo said, adding that the government was deploying helicopters and aircraft to aid the relief effort.

Prabowo has come under increasing pressure to declare a national emergency in response to flooding and landslides that have killed at least 604 people, with hundreds more missing.

**GLOBAL ARMS SALES HIT RECORD \$679
BILLION AMID WARS, INDIA'S REVENUE
UP 8.2%**

Diary Times Desk : Revenues from sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest weapons-producing companies worldwide rose by 5.9 per cent last year, with demand boosted by the wars in Ukraine and Gaza, and global and regional geopolitical tensions, according to a global report released on Monday.

The combined arms revenues of the three Indian companies in this list increased by 8.2 per cent to USD 7.5 billion on the back of domestic orders, says the report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

The Sweden-based global think-tank, in a statement, also shared a link that carried the list of "top 100 arms-producing and military services companies" in the world in 2024.

The Indian firms which figure in it are- Hindustan Aeronautics (at 44th spot), Bharat Electronics (58th), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (91st).

"Revenues from sales of arms and military services by the 100 largest arms-producing companies rose by 5.9 per cent in 2024, reaching a record USD 679 billion, according to new data released today by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)," the statement said.

**'PREDICTABLE': AWAMI
LEAGUE SLAMS COURT'S
VERDICT AGAINST HASINA,
FAMILY**

Diary Times Desk : The Awami League on Monday rejected the verdict by a Dhaka court against former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members in a case filed by the country's Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), calling the outcome "entirely predictable".

Slamming the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government, the party rejected the verdict and alleged that the ruling, like other recent ACC cases, shows that the commission has been weaponised for political purposes by "desperate, unelected men". The remarks came after a Dhaka court on Monday sentenced Hasina to five years in prison over irregularities in the allocation of plots under the Purbachal New Town project.

**SOMETHING IRREVERSIBLE
BEING HIDDEN: SONS FEAR
FOR IMRAN KHAN IN DEATH
CELL**

Diary Times Desk : Something irreversible is being concealed by the authorities in Pakistan, fear Imran Khan's sons, as the former Pakistani Prime Minister remains in custody without any information about him being shared for the last 47 days. Forget meeting him, no news of his well-being has emerged from Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail, where the former PM has been kept in a "death cell", according to his son Kasim Khan.

The fears were expressed by Imran's sons, Kasim and Sulaiman, amid rumours and reports of the former prime minister's death spreading across Pakistan. Meanwhile, there has been no word from the Asim Munir-led establishment.

Fearing the worst, Khan's sons have alleged that authorities are concealing "something irreversible" about his condition, after more than three weeks with no evidence that he is still alive, according to news agency Reuters.

While the Munir-led establishment has repeatedly blocked court-ordered prison visits and rumours swirl about possible transfers of Khan, his son Kasim told Reuters that the family has had no direct or verifiable contact with him, despite a judicial order mandating weekly meetings. Reacting to the uncertainty, Imran Khan's ex-wife and mother of Kasim and Sulaiman Khan, Jemima Goldsmith, claimed on X: "They're not even allowed to speak to him on the phone. No .

GLOBAL ‘SATANIC’ RING, THOUSANDS OF VIDEOS OF CHILD SEX ABUSE
UNCOVERED WITH ARRESTS IN AUSTRALIA’S SYDNEY



Diary Times Desk : Police in Australia have arrested four Sydney men linked to an international “satanic” child abuse and porn racket, officials said on Monday. Detectives from New South Wales State Police identified the network while probing online distribution of encrypted child porn involving “ritualistic and occult themes”.

The arrests, which took place last Thursday, saw the men charged with possessing, distributing, and facilitating “deplorable” child abuse material through a website. This website was administered internationally.

Sex Crimes Squad Detective Superintendent Jayne Doherty spoke to reporters about the disturbing nature of the material. Doherty stressed that while all child abuse is abhorrent, these cases were “particularly devastating”. She said the international group was sharing material depicting child abuse and the torture of children involving symbols and rituals linked to “satanism and the occult”. Among those arrested is 26-year-old Landon Germanotta-Mills. Police allege that Germanotta-Mills played a leading role in the ring. He was charged with 14 offences. The other three suspects are Stuart Woods Riches, 39, Mark Andrew Sendecy, 42, and Benjamin Raymond Drysdale, 46.

INDIAN MAN’S BIG BOLLYWOOD
DANCE PROPOSAL AT TIMES SQUARE
LEAVES GIRLFRIEND EMOTIONAL

Diary Times Desk : An Indian man living in the US has set the internet swooning after proposing to his girlfriend in full Bollywood style at New York’s Times Square. Parth Maniar planned a grand dance-filled surprise in front of hundreds of people as he asked Shreya Singh to marry him. Parth performed to a medley of Bollywood hits including Pretty Woman, Woh Ladki Jo Sabse Alag Hai and Koi Mil Gaya. Shreya, of course, was emotional as she couldn’t believe her eyes. It began with her friends guiding her blindfolded out of a car before revealing the magical setup as she was stunned to see Parth dancing.

AUSTRALIAN WOMAN CHANNELS GRIEF
OF SON’S DEATH INTO SOCIAL MEDIA
BAN

Diary Times Desk : “He was my world.” Ollie was bullied online and apps like Tiktok, Snapchat and Youtube showed him a stream of content that fuelled his eating disorder. She vividly remembers his mop of red curls, his quick wit and the spark in his eyes that grew duller as he got sicker. When Ollie first got sick, he turned to social media. But Mia said she had no idea the impact that it could have. “I was a single parent, working full time, trying to keep a roof over our heads, not really understanding either what platforms he’s on and how they work,” she said. Mia places the blame on the social media giants.

SWITZERLAND VOTES TO REJECT KHATAKHAT KHATAKHAT WEALTH-SHARING PLAN

Diary Times Desk : Switzerland has rejected Rahul Gandhi’s khatakhata-khatakhata plan. Surprised? It might seem like a stretch at first glance, but voters in Switzerland, one of the wealthiest countries, rejected a wealth redistribution plan floated by a socialist party that had a ring similar to the Congress leader’s money transfer plan from the 2024 Lok Sabha election — khatakhata khatakhata.

What traditionally connects India and Switzerland is Yash Chopra flicks. But this time, it’s an idea. Fundamentally, there is a resemblance between what the Congress had promised in its Lok Sabha election manifesto last year, and what the Swiss people have now thrown out. Switzerland, which is as well known for its chocolates and dairy products as the banking system that banks on secrecy, has voted to keep its billionaires comfortable. The famous khatakhata-khatakhata scheme, which promised Rs 1 lakh per year to poor women if the Congress came to power, might not be twins with the Swiss initiative that planned to “take from the rich and give to the poor”, but they are like cousins, 6,000 kilometres apart.



AUSTRIAN INFLUENCER
FOUND DEAD IN SUITCASE IN
FOREST, EX-LOVER
CONFESSES

Diary Times Desk : Stefanie Pieper, a beauty influencer from Austria, was killed by her ex-boyfriend, who reportedly hid her body inside a suitcase and buried it in a forest, according to Austrian media on Sunday. Known for her makeup, fashion, and singing content, Pieper was 31 at the time of her death.

According to the Styrian State Police, Pieper went missing after returning home from a party on November 23. Austrian media said that after the party, she messaged a friend saying that she had arrived home safely but soon sent another message saying that she thought someone was in her stairwell. Pieper’s neighbours told the media that they heard arguments and allegedly saw the 31-year-old woman’s ex-boyfriend in the building. Police said that when Pieper’s relatives and coworkers were unable to reach her, they reported her missing.

3 TEHREEK-E-TALIBAN
TERRORISTS KILLED AFTER
ATTACKER BLOWS HIMSELF
UP IN PAK

Diary Times Desk : At least three Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists were killed in retaliatory action by Pakistani security forces here, Dawn reported.

According to a statement issued by Frontier Corps (FC) Balochistan South spokesperson, the action of the security forces in Pakistan comes after one of the “suicide attackers” blew himself up at the main gate of the FC headquarters in Balochistan’s Nokkundi, Dawn reported.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), referred to as ‘Fitna-al-Khawarij’ by the Pakistani state, is a banned group.

The statement by FC said that the security forces were quick to respond and managed to kill three terrorists.

Dawn reported that at least six armed attackers had entered the FC headquarters after the actions of one of the suicide attackers. Meanwhile, the clearance operation was underway at the incident site. Reportedly, a checkpoint in the Gurmakan area of Panjgur district also came under attack, Dawn reported.

After TTP ended a ceasefire with the Pakistan government in November 2022, their activities have intensified, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. Dawn reported that seven blasts rocked Quetta and Dera Murad Jamali in Balochistan on Saturday, with one explosion blowing up a section.

BITCOIN PRICE SLIDES BELOW \$85,000 IN RISK-OFF START TO DECEMBER

Diary Times Desk : Cryptocurrencies fell sharply on Monday, bringing fresh momentum to a wide-ranging selloff that appeared to have settled.

Bitcoin price slid as much as 7% to below \$85,000 in early New York trading, before paring the decline. Ether dropped around 7% to below \$2,800, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Most tokens followed a similar pattern, with Solana falling around 8%.

The crypto market is on shaky ground after a weeks-long selloff that began when some \$19 billion in levered bets were wiped out in early October, just days after Bitcoin set an all-time high of \$126,251. The OG cryptocurrency shed 17% of its value in November, but a let-up in the selling pressure saw it regain ground last week, rising to above \$90,000.

Traders are now bracing for bigger slides in bitcoin prices “It’s a risk off start to December,” Sean McNulty, APAC derivatives trading lead at FalconX, told Bloomberg News. “The biggest concern is the meagre inflows into Bitcoin exchange traded funds and absence of dip buyers. We expect the structural headwinds to continue this month.



US CEO AMAZED BY INDIA'S 10-MINUTE DELIVERY CULTURE, SAYS COUNTRY IS 'LIVING IN 2030'

Diary Times Desk : A US-based Indian-origin CEO says the biggest surprise during her recent three-week trip to India was not traffic, food or congestion, but the speed of the country's quick-commerce ecosystem.

Taking to LinkedIn, Varuni Sarwal, the CEO of TriFetch, compared India's 10-minute delivery culture with the United States, saying Amazon Prime's two-day delivery “feels ancient” in comparison. According to her, while the US still believes it leads on innovation, India's B2C logistics “is already living in 2030”.

“San Francisco has self-driving cars. India has 10-minute everything. I’m not sure which is more impressive,” she wrote before describing an incident from her trip to Ranchi, where she and her colleague Rosemary travelled for a friend’s wedding.

ON NETANYAHU'S PARDON REQUEST, PRESIDENT TO CONSIDER ISRAEL'S 'BEST INTERESTS'

Diary Times Desk : Israeli President Isaac Herzog said Monday he would focus only on Israel's "best interests" when he weighs Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's request for a pardon on corruption charges. "It will be handled in the most correct and precise manner. I will consider solely the best interests of the State of Israel and Israeli society," Herzog said in a statement.

Netanyahu announced Sunday he had submitted a pardon request, saying the long-running cases were tearing Israel apart. US President Donald Trump also wrote to Herzog last month, seeking a pardon for Netanyahu. The premier has repeatedly denied wrongdoing in the proceedings. Netanyahu and his wife Sara stand accused in one case of accepting more than \$260,000 worth of luxury goods such as cigars, jewellery and champagne from billionaires in exchange for political favours.

TRUMP TO RELEASE OCTOBER MRI RESULT AMID HEALTH RUMORS? US PRESIDENT DECLARES 'IF YOU WANT TO...'



Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump announced late Sunday his willingness to make public the results of an MRI he had in October, stating that he was unaware of which area of his body was being scanned.

“If you want to have it released, I'll release it,” Trump, 79, told reporters while returning to Washington, DC from Florida, where he celebrated Thanksgiving at his Mar-a-Lago resort.

The Republican leader surprisingly revealed on October 27 that he had undergone the MRI during a checkup at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on October 10, mentioning that the procedure was “perfect.”

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt stated that the president underwent “advanced imaging” and that the findings indicated Trump is in “exceptional physical health.”

MRIs are conducted to identify various conditions and medical concerns, including tumors, muscle tears, and bone fractures.

MINDPATH HEALTH'S \$3.5MN SETTLEMENT: WHO ARE ELIGIBLE AND HOW MUCH MONEY WILL THEY GET?

Diary Times Desk : Mindpath Health has agreed to a class action settlement amounting to \$3.5 million to address claims that it did not sufficiently safeguard consumers against a data breach that transpired between March and July 2022.

As stated in the lawsuit, the company is accused of inadequately protecting consumers during the data breach of 2022. It is alleged that an unauthorized third party gained access to Mindpath's business email accounts, according to the plaintiffs, MARCA reported.

The breach is said to have compromised the personal information and protected health data of thousands of patients. Affected customers filed a lawsuit following the incident, arguing that the business could have prevented the leak by taking appropriate cybersecurity precautions. According to the stipulations of the agreement, class members are entitled to a monetary compensation that reflects the duration they dedicated to addressing the repercussions of the breach.

AMAZON'S OREGON DATA CENTERS BLAMED FOR FUELLING CANCER AND MISCARRIAGES, COMPANY REACTS

Diary Times Desk : Morrow County, located in Oregon, is recognized for its expansive agricultural operations and food processing facilities. However, in the past ten years, it has also become the site of multiple Amazon data centers.

A report from Rolling Stone indicates that both experts and local inhabitants now suspect that a combination of agricultural waste and the substantial water consumption of these data centers is elevating nitrate concentrations in drinking water to hazardous levels.

This situation may be contributing to an increase in rare cancers and miscarriages, according to the report.

A comprehensive investigation by Rolling Stone asserts that nitrate levels in certain wells within the Lower Umatilla Basin aquifer have soared to 73 parts per million (ppm). This figure is ten times higher than Oregon's permissible limit of 7 ppm and seven times above the federal threshold.

'MONEY AT EXPENSE OF PEOPLE'S LIVES': UNSAFE NETS FOUND IN HONG KONG
FIRE PROBE AS OFFICIAL BLAMES CONTRACTORS



Diary Times Desk : The probe into the deadly fire that killed at least 151 in an apartment complex in Hong Kong found unsafe netting being used for covering the scaffolding used in renovations.

Officials said the nets being used during renovations at the high-rise Wang Fuk Court complex were not in accordance with fire-safety codes, the Associated Press reported.

The blaze, which started on Wednesday from the lower-level netting being used to cover a bamboo scaffolding around one building, took until Friday to extinguish. After the blaze broke out, the flames spread inside the apartments as foam panels which were placed over windows caught fire and blew out the glass, AP reported. Owing to the winds, the flames spread to multiple buildings in the complex which were covered with scaffolding and netting, until seven of the eight apartments.

PM MODI 'DEEPLY CONCERNED' OVER EX
BANGLADESH LEADER KHALEDA ZIA'S
HEALTH, AFFIRMS 'ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT'

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed "deep concern" over the health of former Bangladesh PM Khaleda Zia and said that India is ready to "extend all possible support in whatever way we can".

PM Modi's remarks came just hours after Zia's party leaders reportedly said that she Ais "extremely unwell" and that the former Bangladesh prime minister has been placed on ventilation.

In a post on X, the PM wrote, "Deeply concerned to learn about the health of Begum Khaleda Zia, who has contributed to Bangladesh's public life for many years. Our sincere prayers and best wishes for her speedy recovery. India stands ready to extend all possible support, in whatever way we can."

UK VLOGGER SHOCKED BY POST
MALONE TICKET PRICES IN
GUWAHATI: 'AMERICAN MIND COULD
NEVER COMPREHEND'

Diary Times Desk : A British travel vlogger exploring India was left stunned after discovering that global music star Post Malone is set to perform in Guwahati and that he could buy six tickets for under \$150 (approximately ₹13,000). The traveller, who goes by Alex Wanders on Instagram, is currently documenting his journey across India on social media. In his recent video, he shared that he reached Guwahati, Assam - his 11th Indian state - when he spotted a billboard announcing Post Malone's upcoming concert. Curious, he checked ticket prices and was shocked to find they were way cheaper than what they would have cost in America in 2025. "The American mind could never comprehend this. I just spawned into Guhawati, India, and it turns out next week Post Malone is playing a show here.

TECH FOUNDER BUILDS LANDLINE-STYLE PHONE TO REDUCE SCREEN TIME,
MAKES \$120,000 IN JUST 3 DAYS



Diary Times Desk : A tech founder's nostalgic attempt to reduce her own screen time has turned into a viral business success, earning \$120,000 (approximately ₹1 crore) in sales within just 3 days.

Two years ago, Cat Goetze, who is known online as CatGPT, grew tired of constant smartphone use and wished for the simplicity of old-school landline conversations. "I was kind of just sitting around [thinking] it'd be so cute if we still had landline phones and you could twirl the cord and talk with your friends. That just felt nostalgic and chic to me," she told CNBC Make It.

Goetze said that when she realised getting a landline required a new number and paid connection, she decided to build her own version. Then, using a thrifted pink clamshell handset, she "hijacked" the device and made it Bluetooth-compatible. It became the quirky centrepiece of her apartment. Whenever someone buzzed into her building's security system, Goetze said that she would let them in from her landline, and she could even place outgoing calls from the set. Then, in July 2025, she revealed the device online. She said that the response was instant, with hundreds of users commenting that they wanted it. This prompted her to launch an online shop, expecting maybe 15-20 preorders.

TRUMP WARNS ISRAEL NOT
TO 'INTERFERE' IN SYRIA

Diary Times Desk : US President Donald Trump warned Israel on Monday against destabilizing Syria and its new leadership, days after a deadly operation by Israeli forces in the south of the country.

"It is very important that Israel maintain a strong and true dialogue with Syria, and that nothing takes place that will interfere with Syria's evolution into a prosperous State," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

Trump said he was "very satisfied" with Syria's performance under former Islamist rebel President Ahmed al-Sharaa, who made a historic visit to the White House in November.

Trump has been pushing for a security pact between Israel and Syria since Sharaa's Islamist coalition overthrew longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad a year ago.

Trump said Sharaa "is working diligently to make sure good things happen, and that both Syria and Israel will have a long and prosperous relationship together."

IMRAN KHAN'S SONS
CONTINUE TO SEEK PROOF OF
LIFE AMID HEALTH
SPECULATIONS:
'PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE'

Diary Times Desk : Amid the speculations regarding former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan's health, his sons continue to demand for 'proof of life' of their father.

In a fresh statement, Kasim Khan has stated that his family is fearing that 'something irreversible' may have happened to the PTI leader. He added that amid the rumours, no verifiable contact has been made with the jailed leader, despite a court order which allows weekly meetings.

"Not knowing whether your father is safe, injured or even alive is a form of psychological torture," he said in written remarks, reported by Reuters. Kasim added that there has been no independently confirmed communication for a couple of months.

"Today we have no verifiable information at all about his condition. Our greatest fear is that something irreversible is being hidden from us," he added. Kasim, his brother Suleiman Isa Khan have distanced themselves from Pakistani politics, live in London with their mother, Jemima Goldsmith.

JAPAN TO ISSUE \$75 BILLION IN NEW BONDS TO FUND ECONOMIC PACKAGE

Diary Times Desk : Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government plans to issue more new bonds to fund its economic package than the corresponding amount last year, as concerns smolder over the nation's public finances and rising yields.

The extra budget, totaling about ¥18.3 trillion (\$117 billion), will be funded by ¥11.7 trillion in additional bond issuance, according to a document seen by Bloomberg on Thursday. The government also expects to tap ¥2.9 trillion in tax revenue surpluses, roughly ¥1 trillion in non-tax revenue, and about ¥2.7 trillion in unused funds from the previous fiscal year to limit borrowing. Still, the newly added debt load is considerably larger than the ¥6.7 trillion issuance needed to fund former PM Shigeru Ishiba's set of economic measures a year ago. The extra budget is expected to be approved by the cabinet Friday.

INDIA TO LEAD EMERGING MARKET GROWTH WITH 7PC GDP RISE IN 2025: MOODY'

Diary Times Desk : Moody's Ratings on Friday said with a 7 per cent GDP expansion in 2025 and 6.4 per cent in the next year, India will lead growth among emerging markets and across the Asia Pacific region.

Moody's also said that India's domestic growth drivers underpin its economic resilience amid global uncertainty.

Although the Indian rupee has continued to weaken against the dollar, most rated companies have active currency risk management or strong financial buffers, while investment-grade entities have demonstrated access to international capital markets.

"India will lead growth among emerging markets and across the region, with GDP growing 7 per cent in 2025 and 6.4 per cent in 2026," Moody's Ratings said.

Its projected average GDP growth in APAC (Asia-Pacific) will remain steady at 3.4 per cent in 2026 compared with 3.3 per cent in 2024 and expected growth of 3.6 per cent in 2025.

GST COLLECTIONS SOFTEN IN NOVEMBER 2025 IN THE AFTERMATH OF RATIONALISATION MOVE

Diary Times Desk : India's GST collections softened in November 2025 due to the rationalisation move that reduced the indirect tax of hundreds of items.

Gross GST revenue rose 0.7% year-on-year to ₹1,70,276 crore in November 2025, as against ₹1.95 crore in October 2025, according to provisional data released by the government on Monday (1 December 2025). Still, on a year-to-date basis (April–November 2025), GST collections are up 8.9% annually at ₹14,75,488 crore.

GST refunds fell 4% year-on-year to ₹18,196 crore. Export refunds rose 3.5%, while domestic refunds fell 12%. GST from imports increased 10.2% year-on-year to ₹45,976 crore. The outgoing compensation cess fell 69% year-on-year to ₹4,006 crore. On 22 September, India cut GST rates on hundreds of items—from soaps to small cars—as part of a rationalisation move to reduce the number of tax slabs to two (5% and 18%) from four (5%, 12%, 18% and 28%). A new 40% slab for sin and luxury goods while the compensation cess was done away with.



RUPEE WEAKENS TO RECORD LOW AGAINST US DOLLAR

Diary Times Desk : The rupee declined to 89.59 against the U.S. dollar, dipping past its previous record low of 89.49 hit about two weeks ago.

The drop came right after India posted a blowout GDP number that exceeded all expectations. The economy expanded 8.2% in the September quarter, far above the 7.3% estimated in a Reuters poll.

Bankers said the robust growth has offered little respite to the rupee, which remains pressured by the lack of progress on a U.S.-India trade deal, importer hedging activity, and a balance of payments position that has turned less supportive.

On Monday, the maturity of positions in the non-deliverable forwards market also exerted pressure on the currency, traders said, while state-run banks were spotted offering dollars intermittently. Calibrated" rupee depreciation is "both inevitable and desirable" in the current macro environment, economists at J.P. Morgan said in a note. The longer there is no trade deal, the greater the onus on rupee depreciation to provide that offset, the economists said.



MAHINDRA SUV SALES RISE 22%, TRACTOR SALES UP 32% IN NOVEMBER 2025

Diary Times Desk : SUV sales of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. rose 22% year-on-year to 56,336 units in November 2025, even as tractor sales surged 32% to 44,048 units, according to an exchange filing on Monday (1 December 2025).

"There is a positive sentiment among farmers with record production this kharif season and increase in rabi sowing acreage," Veejay Nakra, president - farm equipment business at Mahindra & Mahindra, said in the filing. "The GST rate cut, coupled with higher MSP, is leading to positive cash flow for farmers and aiding tractor and farm implements demand."

Total sales of Mahindra Trucks & Buses business rose 57% year-on-year to 2,232 units. Nearly half of this was accounted by SML Mahindra Ltd., which doubled its sales over the year-ago period.



GOVT MAY SELL NEARLY 5% STAKE IN BANK OF MAHARASHTRA, REPORTS CNBC-TV18; SHARES FALL 2%

Diary Times Desk : Shares of state-owned Bank of Maharashtra fell 2 percent on Monday following a report that the Centre may offload about a 5 percent stake in the lender to meet minimum public shareholding norms.

According to CNBC-TV18, the proposed stake sale is aimed at moving the bank closer to the mandated 25 percent public shareholding requirement. The government held 79.60 percent in the bank as of September 2025. CNBC-TV18 said it has sought a response from the bank, which is awaited.

On the NSE, the stock was trading at Rs 57.38, down 2.02 percent at 1:35 p.m.

Bank of Maharashtra had completed a Rs 3,500-crore qualified institutional placement in October 2024 to strengthen its capital buffers and progress toward meeting public shareholding rules.

Public-sector banks have been in focus after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said last month that work had begun on the next phase of consolidation among state-run lenders.

'LIC MADE ADANI INVESTMENTS AS PER SOP, NO MINISTRY INTERFERENCE': N SITHARAMAN

Diary Times Desk : Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said her ministry does not issue advisory or directions to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding its investment decisions, and emphasised that the investments that the state-owned insurer made in Adani Group were as per established SOPs.

India's largest insurer has, over the years, made investment decisions across companies based on fundamentals and detailed due diligence. Following due diligence as per established standard operating procedures (SOPs), it has bought shares across half a dozen listed companies of Adani Group, whose book value stands at Rs 38,658.85 crore .

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SLOWS TO 14-MONTH LOW OF 0.4% IN OCTOBER

Diary Times Desk : Industrial production eased in October to a 14-month low of 0.4 percent compared with 4.6 percent in the previous month, according to official data released by the government.

The slowdown in industrial production is in line with the performance of core industries, where growth fell to a 14-month low of 0 percent compared with the previous fiscal, as energy heavy sectors dragged the index into stagnation.

The eight core industries — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement, and electricity — together account for 40 percent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The sharpest pullback came from coal, where output contracted 8.5 percent, reversing the surge seen in August. The decline was exacerbated by a 7.6 percent fall in electricity generation.



US TARIFFS WEIGH AS MANUFACTURING SLOWS TO A 9-MONTH LOW OF 56.6 IN NOVEMBER



Diary Times Desk : India's manufacturing activity eased to a nine-month low in November, slipping to 56.6 from 59.2 in October, as US tariffs dragged down export orders and post-festive demand softened, according to the HSBC Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

"India's final November PMI confirmed that US tariffs caused the manufacturing expansion to slow. The new export orders PMI fell to a 13-month low," said Pranjul Bhandari, chief India economist, HSBC.

November also marks the first time since March that the index has dipped below 57. Still, the PMI remains comfortably in expansion territory and above its long-run average.

The survey showed uneven demand conditions. While some firms saw new business growth and efficiency gains, others reported subdued appetite for certain categories of goods.

The boost from the cuts in goods and services tax (GST) may be fading and it might be insufficient to offset the tariff headwind to demand," Bhandari added.

Business confidence weakened noticeably, falling to its lowest level in nearly three-and-a-half years amid concerns over the impact of tariff measures. Hiring trends also reflected caution, with employment rising at the slowest pace in 21 months.

There was some relief on the price front. Input-cost inflation and selling-price inflation eased to their lowest levels in nine and eight months, respectively.

Economists remain split on whether the Reserve Bank of India will move ahead with a 25-basis-point rate cut in December or wait until February.

'THEY SHOULDN'T LECTURE...': HIMACHAL CM SUKHU HITS BACK AT BJP FOR POLITICISING SANATAN DHARMA

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has hit back at BJP for criticising him over his response to schoolchildren's "Radhe Radhe" greetings. Sukhu claimed BJP is creating controversy out of nothing due to a lack of real issues. During a walkathon organised by the Himachal Police against drug abuse, Sukhu, surrounded by his ministerial colleagues and MLAs, chanted "Radhe Radhe" and "Ram Ram" slogans. He emphasised that those who politicise Sanatan Dharma shouldn't lecture others about it, highlighting his own upbringing and practices like Gauvardhan Pujan and Kanya Pujan.

HIMACHAL WITNESSES 9TH DRIEST NOVEMBER IN 125 YEARS; RECORDS 95% RAINFALL DEFICIT

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh has witnessed its ninth driest November in the last 125 years, with this November seeing a total of 1 mm of rain compared to 19.7 mm, which is considered normal, resulting in a massive 95% rainfall deficit. However, this year's November rainfall is slightly higher than last year's record of 0.2 mm (99% deficit), which was also the same amount of rain the state experienced in 2021 and 1983.

According to State Meteorological Department, all 12 districts have witnessed significant rainfall deficits. Sirmaur and Mandi recorded 100% deficits, with no rainfall (0 mm) compared to their averages of 7.7 mm and 13.4 mm, respectively. Four districts recorded 99% deficits: Shimla (0.1 mm vs 12.6 mm normal), Chamba (0.2 mm vs 34.8 mm), Hamirpur (0.1 mm vs 8.9 mm), and Kangra (0.2 mm vs 14.5 mm). Kullu and Una saw 96% deficits, with Kullu receiving 1.1 mm vs 27.7 mm and Una receiving 0.4 mm vs 9.1 mm. Solan recorded a 95% deficit (0.6 mm vs 13.2 mm), Bilaspur (0.7 mm vs 10.6 mm), and Lahaul-Spiti (1.9 mm vs 23.6 mm). Kinnaur had an 84% deficit, receiving 2.7 mm vs 16.3 mm, making it the district.

WEDDING HORROR: GROOM BOOKED AFTER FIRING, CLASH LEAVES 2 DEAD IN LUDHIANA; 6 ARRESTED

Diary Times Desk : A clash and subsequent firing at a wedding between two groups left two dead and one injured in Ludhiana late Saturday night. The police have arrested six persons in the case.

Sources said the wedding in question was that of contractor Varinder Kapoor, and both groups — that of Ankur and Shubham Mota — had been invited by him. The sources added that Ankur's group had already reached the venue — Bath Castle Palace on Pakhowal road — when Shubham Mota's group arrived and the duo came face to face with each other. An argument ensued over a minor issue, which escalated into a scuffle within minutes. Hosiery businessman JK Dawar from Ankur's group got injured in the melee. As firing followed, two persons were killed and there was a stampede at the venue.



PUNJAB, HARYANA RECORD 90 PER CENT FEWER FARM FIRE INCIDENTS IN 2025: GOVT

Diary Times Desk : The government on Monday told Parliament that Punjab and Haryana together recorded about 90 per cent fewer farm fire incidents during the 2025 paddy harvesting season compared to 2022.

Responding to a question from Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi on the impact of stubble burning, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav told the Lok Sabha that farm fires remain an "episodic event" that aggravates pollution in the winter months.


He also said Delhi recorded its lowest January–November average air quality index since 2018, barring the Covid lockdown year of 2020. Channi had asked whether Delhi's AQI crossed 450 despite a 20 per cent reduction in farm fires in Punjab this year. He further asked about the steps being taken to enforce directives of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and provide alternative machinery to farmers.

'COOLEST PM EVER?' NEW ZEALAND PM LUXON'S JALEBI-MAKING VIDEO WINS HEARTS ONLINE

Diary Times Desk : New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's hands-on participation at the Sikh Games in Auckland — particularly his attempt at making Indian jalebis — has gone viral on social media.


Luxon attended the event at in Takanini, joined by local MP Rima Nakhle, to celebrate sports, culture, and community spirit within the Sikh and other Indian communities.

The standout moment of his visit came when he stepped behind a large wok of hot oil to try his hand at preparing the traditional sweet. With spectators cheering him on, the Prime Minister piped batter into the oil, attempting to create the jalebi's distinctive spiral shape. He later shared the video on Instagram with a playful caption: "Good luck to all those competing – and to those who end up eating my attempt at making jalebi!"




Aries

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




Taurus

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




Gemini

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




Cancer

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




Leo

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




Virgo

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




Sagittarius

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




Capricorn

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



Aquarius

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



Pisces

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

INLD CHIEF ABHAY CHAUTALA SEEKS Z+ SECURITY, MOVES HC CITING THREATS FROM INTERNATIONAL GANGSTERS

Diary Times Desk : A major accident was averted on Sunday afternoon at Panipat railway station, when a Alleging threats from international gangsters after the murder of INLD state president and former MLA Nafe Singh Rath, senior INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala has approached the Punjab and Haryana High Court seeking Z-plus or Z-category security cover from a central agency such as the CRPF. The petition says repeated, credible threats from international and national gangsters have been communicated to him, but the State has “failed to take any action whatsoever” on his representations.

The petitioner has alleged State’s inaction despite repeated requests. He has submitted that no committee was constituted, no assessment was undertaken and no interim protection was extended even though “the threat perception is grave, imminent and continues to escalate.”

Chautala — several-time MLA, former Leader of Opposition and grandson of former Deputy Prime Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal — has argued that the risk to his life intensified after he publicly demanded arrests in Rath’s killing.

NUH LAWYER ‘FUNDED’ KHALISTANI OPERATIVES; RAIDS ON IN PUNJAB

Diary Times Desk : The Nuh lawyer, Rizwan Ali, who was nabbed last week for alleged links with Pakistani terror outfits, was passing on funds to create unrest in Punjab. The startling revelation was made during investigation of three of his bank accounts. The investigation revealed that Ali was getting funds online from Pakistan, which he would withdraw and send to Punjab through ‘human couriers’.

Raids are underway in Jalandhar, Amritsar and other parts of Punjab as Haryana Police teams are searching for cash, digital evidence and other members of the network.

KULLU-MANALI BOUNCES BACK: WINTER HOPE DAWNS AFTER TOUGH MONSOON

Diary Times Desk : After an unusually harsh monsoon season that caused extensive damage to road infrastructure across Mandi and Kullu districts, tourism stakeholders in Kullu-Manali are now looking forward to a strong revival in visitor numbers with the onset of winter. The monsoon-triggered landslides, road blockages and travel disruptions significantly reduced tourist inflow during peak months, resulting in one of the leanest seasons in recent years for the region, which heavily relies on tourism.

Official figures for 2025 highlight the overall tourist movement to the region, revealing a total of 20,48,584 Indian and 7,923 foreign tourists visiting during the first nine months. While the early months of the year performed fairly well with January (2,85,266 Indians; 689 foreigners), February (2,37,272; 773) and March (2,65,388; 831) maintaining steady numbers, the situation improved further in April and May, which recorded 3,17,840 and 3,37,181 domestic tourists respectively.



HARYANA DGP GOES UNDERCOVER TO CHECK CYBER CRIME POLICE STATION’S RESPONSE

Diary Times Desk : Haryana DGP OP Singh conducted a surprise inspection at Gurugram’s Cyber Crime Police Station (East), posing as a digital arrest scam victim to assess the complaint process and assistance quality. The sentry guided him to the investigating officer, explaining the filing process. Singh reviewed the police station’s functioning, victim assistance, response system, and awareness framework. He praised the sentry’s uniform and name plate.

After the inspection, Singh shared key steps to prevent cybercrimes, provide relief to victims, and enhance public awareness. The Haryana Police will hold banks responsible for compensating victims if negligence is found in cyber-fraud cases. The police will seek Lok Adalat’s help to quickly provide financial relief to victims. The DGP emphasised awareness campaigns, forming Cyber Awareness Ambassadors in schools and colleges to educate peers on cybercrime prevention. He warned citizens about cyber fraudsters exploiting fear and greed, urging them to stay alert and report suspicious activities on the Cyber Helpline 1930.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS SET TO GET PRINCIPALS AFTER LONG WAIT AS HARYANA PROMOTES 221 TEACHERS

Diary Times Desk : The Haryana government is all set to fill long-pending vacancies of principals in various government schools across the state. After months, and in many cases years of waiting, 221 teachers, including 218 Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs) and three headmasters have been promoted to the post of principal, offering long-awaited relief to hundreds of government schools running without a regular head. The Department of Secondary Education issued promotion orders on November 26, giving hope to schools across the state that have been functioning without heads or senior lecturers managing dual responsibilities. Among these promoted teachers, Rohtak leads with 26 promoted teachers, followed by Hisar with 19, Bhiwani (17), Gurugram (16), Sonapat and Sirsa with 12 each, Karnal and Jind with 11 each, Charkhi Dadri (10), Panipat, Kaithal and Fatehabad with 9 each, Jhajjar, Palwal and Panchkula with 8 each.

‘CHITTA KO HARANA HAI – YUWAON KO BACHANA HAI’: CM SUKHU FLAGS OFF ‘ANTI-DRUG WALKATHON’ IN DHARAMSALA



Diary Times Desk : A resounding message against drug abuse echoed through Dharamsala today as Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu flagged off and participated in the ‘Anti-Chitta Awareness Walkathon’, rallying with the youth to convey the spirit behind statewide movement against the growing menace of ‘Chitta’.

The walkathon began at Dari Mela Ground and concluded at Police Ground drawing massive participation from students of more than 50 educational institutions. With banners, slogans and strong resolve, thousands of young participants marched to raise awareness and encourage societal responsibility in combating drug addiction. The event, themed ‘Chitta ko Harana Hai—Yuwaon ko Bachana Hai’, aimed to mobilise the youth in a mission-mode approach to safeguard the future of Himachal Pradesh. Addressing the gathering at the Police Ground, CM Sukhu delivered a firm and unequivocal message: “There is no place for Chitta in Dev Bhoomi Himachal.” He urged young people to become active partners in eradicating the drug problem, emphasizing that the fight against narcotics requires collective effort and sustained vigilance.

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

"nvention, 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.

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 SHOW CONCRETE INTEREST IN €70M-RATED LEFT-BACK; REAL MADRID, MAN UNITED ALSO KEEN



Diary Times Desk : Barcelona have two reliable left-backs in their squad in Alejandro Balde, who is the first-choice starter, and Gerard Martin, who provides cover as backup.

Moreover, the Blaugrana have young talent Jofre Torrents, who has already made his first-team debut this season, knocking on the doors.

Despite that, it appears that the La Liga champions are exploring market opportunities to strengthen the left-back position.

Nathaniel Brown on Barcelona’s radar
This is according to Sky Sports Germany journalist Florian Plettenberg, who reports that Barcelona have shown concrete interest in Eintracht Frankfurt and Germany left-back Nathaniel Brown. Real Madrid also have the 22-year-old defender on their shortlist.

BARCELONA CONFIDENT OF RECEIVING PERMIT TO INCREASE CAMP NOU CAPACITY TO 60,000 BY MONTH END

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona made their long-awaited return to the Spotify Camp Nou on 22 November, marking the occasion with a resounding victory over Athletic Club.

This past weekend, the Blaugrana played their second game at the iconic stadium, beating Deportivo Alaves 3-1, while they will host Atletico Madrid at the venue tomorrow night.

Having secured permits corresponding to the Phase 1A and 1B, Barcelona have been able to welcome just a touch over 45,000 fans back to Camp Nou.

Capacity increase around the corner
Now, Barcelona president Joan Laporta has revealed that he expects to receive the permit for Phase 1C by the end of December, which would allow the club to increase capacity to around 60,000 spectators.

This permit would allow the opening of the North Stand and the grada de animacion (supporters’ cheering section), to be called Grada 1957. “I’m the first one who wants to have the supporters’ section up and running.

BARCELONA DEFENSIVE HEAVYWEIGHT TARGETING COMEBACK AGAINST REAL BETIS

Diary Times Desk : The past week or so has been a challenging one for Barcelona centre-back Ronald Araujo, with his costly mistake against Chelsea putting him under intense scrutiny.

The 26-year-old defender ended up missing the weekend La Liga clash vs Deportivo Alaves due to a stomach bug, although it is understood that he has been severely affected by his error against Chelsea, and the club staff preferred that he take a break.

As things stand, Araujo did not train with the squad today either and will be unavailable against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday night.

Target Real Betis
Providing an update on the situation, journalist Alfredo Martinez reports that Araujo trained inside the gym facilities at the Ciutat Esportiva today.

The Barcelona second captain will continue to test himself in training in the coming days and has set himself the objective of returning in time to face Real Betis at the weekend.



BARCELONA HOMEGROWN MIDFIELDER UNLIKELY TO RETURN UNTIL MARCH AS HE CONTINUES RECOVERY

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona have been without one of their key midfielders, Gavi, for more than two months now.

The Spanish international is recovering from an internal meniscus injury in his knee, for which he had to undergo arthroscopic surgery back in September.

Gavi unlikely to return until March 2026

Earlier today, Barcelona held their final training session before hosting Atletico Madrid this Tuesday at the Spotify Camp Nou.

And, the session offered a small surprise as Gavi appeared on the pitch for a short time, although he did not take part in group work.

And, according to SPORT, even though he stepped onto the pitch for a few moments while his teammates trained, the midfield ace is not expected to return until March.

FLICK CONSIDERS DEPLOYING BARCELONA STAR IN MAKESHIFT ROLE AGAIN VS ATLETICO MADRID

Diary Times Desk : For the last two La Liga matches, against Athletic Club and Deportivo Alaves, FC Barcelona manager Hansi Flick opted to field Gerard Martin as a centre-back.

The German tactician had tried the 23-year-old left-back in the role back in pre-season when Inigo Martinez was dealing with discomfort before leaving the club for Al Nassr.

Martin, to his credit, has taken to the role well and done enough to impress the Blaugrana coaching staff.

Martin to start at centre-back again?
So much so that SPORT reports that Flick is considering repeating the tactic once again tomorrow when Barcelona host Atletico Madrid at the Spotify Camp Nou.

Indeed, Martin has earned a place in Flick’s plans after showing an exceptional level against Alaves in his new position. What initially looked like a temporary solution has become a serious option for the German coach.

Although it may seem risky given the higher level of opposition and the fact that the 23-year-old has played only two consecutive matches in that role, the performance against Alaves was so impressive that Flick does not rule out starting him alongside Pau Cubarsi.