

## NEWS IN BRIEF

**PUNE: BOMB THREAT AT MERCEDES-BENZ SCHOOL IN HINJAWADI SPARKS PANIC; PCMC POLICE LAUNCH SEARCH OPERATION****Diary Times Desk :**

A major scare unfolded in Pune's Hinjawadi IT Park on Wednesday morning after Mercedes-Benz International School received an email claiming that a bomb had been planted on its premises. The anonymous threat triggered panic among parents and staff, prompting an immediate response from Pimpri-Chinchwad Police.

According to officials, the school administration alerted the police soon after receiving the threatening email. Teams from the Hinjawadi Police Station, the Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS), and the Dog Squad quickly reached the campus and began a thorough search operation. All students and staff members were safely evacuated as a precautionary measure.

Mercedes-Benz International School, located in Hinjawadi, is a co-educational day-cum-residential institution offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) curriculum.

**PANIPAT'S "KILLER MOM" MURDERS YOUNG SON, NIECE, 2 OTHERS****Diary Times Desk :**

The wedding drums had barely quieted in a village in Haryana's Panipat when panic swept through the home where relatives had gathered. A day of celebration unravelled into a nightmare after a six-year-old girl, dressed for the festivities, suddenly disappeared. Within hours, the joyous atmosphere turned into a frantic search and soon after, a crime scene. By the end of the day, police uncovered a chilling murder case with the main suspect reminiscent of the Evil Queen from the German fairy tale Snow White. A woman, accused of killing four children, has been arrested for murdering her niece in Panipat, police said on Wednesday. The reason: she did not want anyone to look "more beautiful" than her. The accused, Poonam, drowned her 6-year-old niece in a water tub on Monday when the entire family had gathered for.

**CHHATTISGARH CLASH****12 MAOISTS, 3 COPS KILLED IN CHHATTISGARH CLASH, 275 EXTREMISTS DEAD IN 2025**

So far, bodies of 12 Maoists have been recovered from the encounter spot, but their identities were yet to be established, the senior IPS officer stated.

Besides, Single Loading Rifles (SLRs), Insas rifles .303 rifles and other arms and ammunition were recovered from the site, he said. "Head Constable Monu Vadadi, Constable Dukaru Conde and jawan Ramesh Sodhi, belonging to the DRG Bijapur, were martyred in the encounter, while two other DRG personnel sustained injuries," Pattilingam said. The injured jawans were immediately provided first aid and were stated to be out of danger now, said the IGP, adding appropriate arrangements were being made for their further medical treatment.

Reinforcement teams were dispatched to the encounter site which falls in the west Bastar division and a search operation was still underway in the area, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said.

With the latest action by security forces, 275 Maoists have been killed in encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of them, 246 were eliminated in the Bastar division, comprising seven districts, including Bijapur and Dantewada, while 27 others were gunned down in Gariaband district, which falls in the Raipur division. Two Maoists were killed in Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki district in Durg division.

**CALCUTTA HIGH COURT OVERTURNS OWN ORDER SCRAPPING 32,000 TEACHERS' APPOINTMENTS**

**Diary Times Desk :** A division bench of the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday overturned a single-bench order that had terminated the appointments of 32,000 primary teachers in connection with the cash-for-jobs scam case. The teachers were recruited through the 2014 Teachers' Eligibility Test (TET) by the West Bengal Board of Primary Education.

The Calcutta High Court stated that not all appointments were proven to be irregular and recognised the significant adverse impact that terminating employment after nine years would have on the teachers and their families.

The bench, presided by Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty, said it is not inclined to uphold the single bench order as irregularities have not been proven in all the recruitments. "There must have been a possibility of systemic malice, assessment of data doesn't point to the same... A group of unsuccessful candidates cannot be allowed to damage the entire system. A job taken away after 9 years of service would cause insurmountable difficulty," the bench ruled, as reported by Live Law. Investigations led by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), under the court's direction, identified 264 appointments with irregularities, and another 96 teachers later came under scrutiny. Given this, the court determined that cancelling the entire selection process would not be justified.

**COMMANDOS, SNIPERS, DRONES, AI: 5-LAYER SECURITY RING FOR PUTIN IN INDIA**

**Diary Times Desk :** Highly trained personnel from Russia's Presidential Security Service, top commandos from India's National Security Guard, snipers, drones, jammers, and AI monitoring - a five-layer security ring has been prepped ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to India.

Putin, who is visiting India to attend the India-Russia Annual Summit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is expected to land in Delhi tomorrow evening. According to sources, the Russian President will dine with the Prime Minister. He will receive a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan the day after. Later on Friday, he is scheduled to visit Mahatma Gandhi's memorial in Raj Ghat. Putin will then attend the summit at Hyderabad House and an event at Bharat Mandapam. He will also participate in a banquet hosted by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. To ensure top security during the action-packed itinerary, over four dozen top security personnel from Russia reached Delhi beforehand, sources have said. Along with officials of Delhi Police and the NSG, these officials are sanitising every route the Russian President's cavalcade will pass through.

**BJP 7, AAP 3 IN DELHI MUNICIPAL BY-POLLS, CONGRESS SCOOPS 1**

**Diary Times Desk :** The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday eased to victory in seven of 12 seats in Municipal Corporation of Delhi by-polls, to add to a dominant win in the February Assembly election.

The Aam Aadmi Party - dumped out of power by the BJP 10 months ago after over a decade in power - finished a distant second with three seats. And a struggling Congress did what it could not do earlier this year - win a seat in a Delhi election. The twelfth seat went to the All India Forward Bloc.

But it wasn't all positive news for the BJP. The ruling party went into this by-poll with nine seats in its pocket, only to lose two - one each to the Congress and AIFB. On the plus side, it did flip one; Chandni Chowk, won by the AAP in the 2022 full election, was picked up by the saffron party's Suman Gupta.

The AAP, meanwhile, returned the favour, winning the Naraina ward the BJP won in 2022. The dropped seats, though, will not affect the BJP's control of the House.

The party now holds 122 of 250 seats and the AAP 102. The Congress will now hold nine. Nevertheless, this election was significant for the BJP and AAP. For the former, it was seen as the first big electoral test for Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, a test she passed comfortably. For the latter, it was a similar scenario; it was Saurabh Bhardwaj's first election since taking charge of the party's Delhi unit and, he too, will claim a win after not losing any seats.

**SANCHAR SAATHI****CENTRE ROLLS BACK ORDER ON MANDATORY PRE-INSTALLATION OF SANCHAR SAATHI APP**

**Diary Times Desk :** The government on Wednesday rolled back an order mandating pre-installation of the Sanchar Saathi cybersecurity app on smartphones sold in the country.

The order to manufacturers - including American technology giant Apple, which was reportedly prepping a legal challenge - was withdrawn because the "the number of users who have downloaded the app (over six lakh in 24 hours and 1.4 crore users overall) has been increasing rapidly".

The mandate to pre-install "was meant to accelerate this process".

The statement also confirmed what Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said yesterday and repeated in Parliament this morning - the app can be deleted. "The government, with an intent to provide access to cybersecurity to all citizens, mandated pre-installation of Sanchar Saathi app on all smartphones. The app is secure and meant to help citizens from bad actors in the cyber world. There is no other function other than protecting users... and they can remove the app..." The rollback followed two days of protests over concerns the pre-installation directive violates privacy rights and that the app itself could be used to spy on people, an echo of the Pegasus spyware scandal. Earlier today Scindia told the Lok Sabha, "Snooping is neither possible nor will it happen with the Sanchar Saathi app. And I can delete it like any other app... as every citizen has this right in a democracy. We took this step to make it accessible to all."

**ALL POTHOLES IN DELHI-NCR TO BE FILLED IN 72 HOURS TO CURB POLLUTION: MINISTER**

**Diary Times Desk :** All potholes should be repaired in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) within 72 hours, Delhi's Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced today as the region finds innovative ways to fight air pollution. Potholes kick up a lot of dust and also slows down traffic, leading to more fuel burn and wastage. The cumulative effect is huge.

He also said any industrial unit in Delhi that has been adding to pollution should ensure they stick to compliance within 20 days, or else they will not be allowed to operate, and fined too.

The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) - a structured framework designed to combat air quality deterioration - is at level two in Delhi; the highest is GRAP-4 where many activities are restricted.

The public works department (PWD) will mend the potholes, while the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) will send sprinklers at construction and demolition sites. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta will form a committee with experts and scientists as members, and they will recommend steps to fight pollution from time to time at meetings chaired by her.



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COMMANDOS, SNIPERS, DRONES, AI: 5-LAYER SECURITY RING  
FOR PUTIN IN INDIA

**Diary Times Desk :** The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi is 378, indicating Hazardous air quality right now. During certain times of the year, particularly in winter, several factors contribute to dangerously high AQI levels in Delhi and nearby areas. This deterioration in air quality poses significant health hazards for the population. Children, the elderly, and those with preexisting health conditions are particularly vulnerable. Excessive exposure to pollutants can increase the risk of asthma, bronchitis, and other chronic respiratory diseases. Studies indicate that long-term exposure to polluted air is associated with an increased risk of heart attacks, strokes, and hypertension. Additionally, air pollution can negatively affect brain health, potentially leading to cognitive decline and conditions like dementia. High levels of pollution are also linked to premature mortality, particularly from respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Alok Chopra, a renowned cardiologist, recently shared some tips on Instagram to help you stay safe during high-pollution levels.

WILL BRING BACK PREGNANT WOMAN DEPORTED TO  
BANGLADESH: CENTRE TO SUPREME COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Centre took an undertaking before the Supreme Court to bring back a pregnant woman and her 8-year-old son, who were deported to Bangladesh, on humanitarian grounds. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed the Bengal government to ensure medical facilities for the woman, Sunali Khatun, free of cost.

"There are some cases where the law has to bend to humanitarian causes. This case is different because they claim they are Indian citizens," the Supreme Court said. To this, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government had decided to bring them back.

"On humanitarian grounds, Sunali Khatun and her son Sabir will be brought back... following the procedure without prejudice to our contentions on merits and our right to put them under surveillance," the Solicitor General said. Sunali and her minor son were pushed across the border in June this year after being picked up by the Delhi Police on charges of being illegal Bangladeshi citizens. Sunali's father, Bhodu Sheikh, approached the Calcutta High Court along with another family whose members were also sent to Bangladesh.



PANIPAT'S "KILLER MOM" MURDERS YOUNG  
SON, NIECE, 2 OTHERS

**Diary Times Desk :** The wedding drums had barely quieted in a village in Haryana's Panipat when panic swept through the home where relatives had gathered. A day of celebration unravelled into a nightmare after a six-year-old girl, dressed for the festivities, suddenly disappeared. Within hours, the joyous atmosphere turned into a frantic search and soon after, a crime scene. By the end of the day, police uncovered a chilling murder case with the main suspect reminiscent of the Evil Queen from the German fairy tale Snow White.

A woman, accused of killing four children, has been arrested for murdering her niece in Panipat, police said on Wednesday. The reason: she did not want anyone to look "more beautiful" than her. The accused, Poonam, drowned her 6-year-old niece in a water tub on Monday when the entire family had gathered for a wedding function in Sonipat. According to the police, Poonam had earlier killed three children, including her son in 2023, whom she had murdered the same way as her niece -- by drowning.

KARNATAKA HC REJECTS PRAJWAL  
REVANNA'S PLEA TO SUSPEND LIFE  
SENTENCE IN RAPE CASE



**Diary Times Desk :** The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday, December 3, rejected an application filed by rape convict and former Member of Parliament Prajwal Revanna seeking suspension of the life sentence imposed on him. A division bench of Justice KS Mudagal and Justice Venkatesh Naik T held that the gravity of the offence and the potential impact on other pending cases made it inappropriate to grant bail at this stage. "Weighing the material on record, the gravity of the offence and considering the effect on other pending cases against the appellant, if the appellant is released on bail, this is not a fit case for granting suspension of sentence," the court said. The bench observed that multiple cases alleging sexual abuse are pending against Prajwal.



"I AM NOT A TERRORIST": SHARJEEL IMAM TO TOP COURT DURING BAIL PLEA HEARING

**Diary Times Desk :** Seeking bail in the February 2020 Delhi riots case, activist Sharjeel Imam on Tuesday expressed anguish before the Supreme Court over being "labelled" a "dangerous intellectual terrorist" without a full-fledged trial or a single conviction.

"I would like to say that I am not a terrorist, as I have been called by the respondent (police). I am not an anti-national as called by the State. I am a citizen of this country, a citizen by birth, and I have not been convicted for any offence till now," senior advocate Siddhartha Dave, appearing for Imam, said.

He contended before a bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and N V Anjaria that the activist was arrested on January 28, 2020, which was before the riots, for his speeches, which alone cannot constitute the "criminal conspiracy" offence in the riots case. "I am being prosecuted for speeches I gave, snippets of which were played in court. This FIR was registered in March 2020. For over a month, I had already been in custody.

GOVERNMENT REVEALS DATA ON DELHI'S TOXIC AIR CRISIS: OVER 2 LAKH ACUTE RESPIRATORY CASES IN 6 MAJOR HOSPITALS IN JUST 3 YEARS

**Diary Times Desk :** In a stark revelation tabled in Parliament, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has disclosed that six major central government hospitals in Delhi recorded a staggering 2,04,758 cases of acute respiratory illness (ARI) presenting to emergency departments between 2022 and 2024. Of these, 30,420 patients - nearly 15% - required hospitalisation, underscoring the severe health toll of the capital's chronic air pollution crisis.

The data was tabled by Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, in reply to Question No. 274 raised by Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney (Nominated).

Dr. Sahney specifically asked:

Whether the Ministry has studied the correlation between rising air pollution and respiratory diseases in urban areas; Details of increase in outpatient and hospital admissions due to asthma, COPD, and lung infections in metro cities, especially Delhi, from 2022-2025.

DELHI ROOTING FOR AAP: KEJRIWAL MOCKS BJP FOR LOSING TWO SEATS IN MCD BYPOLL

**Diary Times Desk :** Following the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) bypoll election, the Aam Aadmi Party National Convenor Arvind Kejriwal congratulated his party candidates and also took a sharp jibe at the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The BJP, although, swept the polls with 7 seats in contrast to AAP's 3, it lost two seats. He also said that AAP is gaining ground after just ten months of losing power

Impressed with the verdict, Kejriwal wrote on X, "In this corporation by-election, this time the Aam Aadmi Party fielded its dedicated workers in the electoral arena, and the people of Delhi have made it clear through their mandate that the public support for Delhi is continuously strengthening towards the AAP." "In just 10 months, the public's trust is once again rapidly returning towards the Aam Aadmi Party. Delhi is very soon returning towards positive politics and good works," he further noted



"WOOF WOOF": CONGRESS' RENUKA CHOWDHARY 'BARKS' IN BITE ON DOG ROW

**Diary Times Desk :** Congress MP and former Union Minister Renuka Chowdhury, who made headlines for bringing a dog to Parliament and then taking potshots at fellow lawmakers, was defiant this morning and said she has violated no rule and doesn't care about any action taken against her.

"If they want to bring a motion against me for violation of special rights, let them do so; it doesn't matter to me. Former Prime Minister (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee also brought a bullock cart to Parliament. Dogs hold great importance in Hinduism. There is no rule that I have violated. It doesn't matter to me," the Rajya Sabha MP told the media when asked about BJP leaders' warning that they will bring a motion against her for her 'dog' stunt. She also 'barked' when asked about the BJP leaders' criticism and the possibility of a privilege motion against her.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES SHUT TODAY IN CHENNAI DUE TO RAIN TRIGGERED BY CYCLONE DITWAH

**Diary Times Desk :** School, Colleges Closed on December 3rd: Schools and colleges in Chennai and several neighbouring districts remain closed today, following a holiday announced last evening by local authorities due to persistent rainfall caused by the remnants of Cyclone Ditwah.

Parts of northern Tamil Nadu recorded heavy rainfall this morning as the system moved inland, while Chennai experienced moderate showers. In its latest bulletin this morning, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) stated, "The depression (remnant of Cyclonic Storm Ditwah) over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining North Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts moved slowly southwestwards and weakened into a well-marked low-pressure area over north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts and surrounding areas at 0530 hrs IST today, December 3, 2025". "It is very likely to continue moving southwestwards slowly across the north coastal regions of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

FOREIGN WOMAN SHARES 'CRAZY' EXPERIENCE OF ATTENDING HORNBILL FESTIVAL IN NAGALAND: 'INDIA YOU DON'T SEE'

**Diary Times Desk :** A foreign woman traveller has caught social media's attention for her decision to explore Nagaland, a less conventional destination compared to India's popular "Golden Triangle" circuit of Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. In a viral Instagram video, the user named Emma documented her experience at the popular Hornbill Festival, suggesting it showed a side of the country that is often missed by typical tourists.

"We are at the opening ceremony for the Hornbill Festival 2025 in Nagaland. This place is crazy, let me show you," said Emma as she posed with the tribal groups and participated in the ceremonial dance.

Emma added that despite spending two days at the festival, nothing could have prepared her for the entire experience, as Nagaland's culture and energy impressed her.

TVK'S "RECKLESS ACTIONS", INTENTIONAL DELAY BY VIJAY CAUSED STAMPEDE: TAMIL NADU TO TOP COURT

**Diary Times Desk :** The Tamil Nadu government has told the Supreme Court that the Karur stampede in which 41 people were killed is attributable to a series of "reckless and uncoordinated actions" by the organisers and workers of the TVK party.

In an affidavit filed before the top court, the state government said there was an intentional delay of approximately seven hours by Vijay at the designated Karur site to ensure a larger crowd gathered at the venue. "Thiru C Joseph Vijay, leader of the TVK Party, departed Chennai at 8.40 am by air en route to Tiruchirappalli, arriving at approximately 9.25 am. He subsequently proceeded to Namakkal to attend a scheduled programme and departed thereafter for Karur, which resulted in an arrival delay of approximately seven hours at the designated Karur venue. It shows his intentional delay to invite more crowd at the venue," the state government said.



## 'LIKE A TSUNAMI': DEADLY CYCLONES AND MONSOON RAINS STRIKE ASIA



**Diary Times Desk :** Asia is reeling from the combined impact of deadly cyclones and relentless monsoon rains, with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) describing the disaster as "like a tsunami" in terms of its destructive scale. Clare Nullis, WMO spokesperson, told reporters in Geneva that Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam are among the countries hardest hit. She attributed the catastrophe to "a combination of monsoon-related rainfall and tropical cyclone activity" – a deadly mix that has triggered widespread chaos.

Nullis highlighted the rarity of tropical cyclone Senyar, which last week battered northern Sumatra (Indonesia), peninsular Malaysia and southern Thailand. The storm unleashed "torrential rainfall, widespread flooding and landslides" – an event she stressed is highly unusual so close to the Equator.

"It's not something that we see very often, and it means the impacts are magnified because local communities have got no experience in this," she explained. She also noted that flooding consistently tops the list of climate hazards in Asia, citing WMO's annual State Of The Climate reports, and emphasized: "Asia is very, very vulnerable to floods."

Quoting data from the Indonesian National Disaster Office, as of Tuesday, Nullis said the country has recorded 604 fatalities, 464 missing people and 2,600 injuries. Around 1.5 million people have been affected, with over 570,000 displaced from their homes. The Southeast Asian nation has been "battered for weeks" and is now "bracing for yet more heavy rainfall," Nullis revealed.

## PUTIN ACCEPTED SOME US PROPOSALS ON UKRAINE WAR, REJECTED OTHERS: KREMLIN

**Diary Times Desk :** The Kremlin said on Wednesday that President Vladimir Putin had accepted some US proposals to end the war in Ukraine and rejected others and that Russia was ready to meet US negotiators as many times as it took to reach an agreement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was speaking after talks in Moscow between Putin and US President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, and son-in-law Jared Kushner went into the early hours of Wednesday morning, with a Kremlin aide saying afterwards that "compromises have not yet been found."

Peskov told reporters on Wednesday it would be wrong to say that Putin had rejected the US proposals, noting that the meeting was a first face-to-face exchange of opinions on them.

## WHY JAIL ACCESS TO PAKISTAN'S IMRAN KHAN HAS CAUSED A POLITICAL STORM

**Diary Times Desk :** For nearly a month, family members of Pakistan's jailed former prime minister, Imran Khan, 73, say they were barred from seeing him, prompting protests and causing concerns about his health.

After his sister, Uzma Khanum, finally visited him at Adiala jail, the central jail in Pakistan's Rawalpindi, close to the capital, Islamabad, on Tuesday this week, however, she said Khan's health appeared to be good.

Still, she said, the conditions in which he is being held are poor and that he has described his imprisonment as "mental torture".

Khan is currently serving lengthy prison sentences following convictions on corruption charges.

Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, is also serving a seven-year term for receiving land bribes in one of these corruption cases – the al-Qadir Trust case. Khan and Bibi have denied all of the charges against them.

Here is what we know about why visits to Khan have been blocked. Khan, who was prime minister of Pakistan from 2018 to 2022, has been in prison since his arrest in August 2023 on corruption charges. He is serving prison sentences following a slew of legal cases, including.

## BOMB KILLS THREE PAKISTANI POLICE OFFICERS CLOSE TO AFGHAN BORDER

**Diary Times Desk :** A roadside bomb has killed three Pakistani police officers near the Afghan border, officials say. The blast on Wednesday, in which two other officers were wounded, occurred in the country's restive northwest region of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The continuing cycle of violence in the area has recently sent tension spiralling between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Initial reports suggested the cause was an "improvised explosive device," Ali Hamza, a police official in the nearby city of Dera Ismail Khan, told the AFP news agency. No group has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack, but Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has been quick to blame the Pakistan Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), which has long carried out attacks in the province.

## "UNUSUAL": 3 ENVOYS' OPINION PIECE AHEAD OF PUTIN VISIT TICKS OFF NEW DELHI

**Diary Times Desk :** A joint opinion piece by envoys of three Western countries to India -- the UK, France and Germany -- right before Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit has ticked off New Delhi.

Top officials in the Ministry of External Affairs said they have taken note of the article published in The Times of India. They said the timing of the article is "very unusual" and that "it is not an acceptable diplomatic practice to give public advice on India's relations with a third country".

The joint piece, which carries the bylines of French Ambassador Thierry Mathou, German High Commissioner Philipp Ackermann and the UK High Commissioner Lindy Cameron, is headlined, 'World Wants The Ukraine War To End, But Russia Doesn't Seem Serious About Peace'."

The article criticises the Russian President for the continuing war in Ukraine. Referring to drone and missile attacks, it says, "These are not the actions of someone that is serious about peace. Neither are these indiscriminate attacks mere accidents – they are a systematic choice by Russia to wage its war of aggression with absolute ruthlessness. And it must end."

The article accuses Moscow of refusing to engage in meaningful negotiations or agreeing to a ceasefire.

## TRUMP DESERVES CREDIT FOR PEACE DEAL IN "DANGEROUS" INDIA-PAK CLASH: MARCO RUBIO

**Diary Times Desk :** US Secretary of State Marco Rubio claimed that American President Donald Trump brokered several peace deals, such as the "very dangerous ones like India and Pakistan", and deserves "tremendous credit" for reshaping the foreign policy.

During a Cabinet meeting at the White House on Tuesday, he said that the US foreign policy is now guided by whether it made the US "safer, stronger and more prosperous".

"Not to mention all the other peace deals, very dangerous ones like India and Pakistan or Cambodia and Thailand, and so on... Mr President, I think you deserve tremendous credit for the transformational aspect of our foreign policy," Rubio said. Earlier in the meeting, Trump repeated his claim of resolving several global conflicts, including the one between India and Pakistan, and said that he should receive the Nobel Prize for the "eight wars" he ended. Speaking about the Russia-Ukraine war, he said, "We ended eight wars... But we're going to do one more, I think, I hope."





THE PICTURE THAT BECAME DEFINING SYMBOL OF DEADLY HONG KONG BLAZE



**Diary Times Desk :** It was a clear autumn afternoon with blue skies and a cool breeze as Wong set off to pick up his granddaughter from school.

The 71-year-old retiree and his wife took turns making the walk to school from their apartment complex in Hong Kong's Tai Po district.

That Wednesday – the day a deadly fire devastated the Wang Fuk Court housing estate – it just happened to be Wong's day to go. Soon after he left their apartment, Wong, who asked to be identified only by his surname, realised a fire had broken out at one of the towers in the complex.

By the time he returned, leaving his granddaughter behind as he fled quickly, flames were pouring out of the middle floors of the tower where he and his wife lived.

"My wife is inside," he screamed, pointing at the flames engulfing the apartment block. A week after the tragedy, Wong's wife is still unaccounted for and is among the 30 people listed missing. At least 156 people were killed.

32-YEAR-OLD INDIAN MAN CHARGED  
WITH HOMICIDE IN FATAL TRUCK  
CRASH IN US

**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian man who entered the US illegally three years ago has been charged with homicide after two persons were killed when a semi-truck he was driving collided with their car.

Rajinder Kumar, 32, has been charged with criminally negligent homicide and reckless endangering. William Micah Carter, 25, and Jennifer Lynn Lower, 24, were killed in the road accident.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has lodged an arrest detainer for Kumar.

"US WILL VERY SOON STRIKE DRUG TRAFFICKERS INSIDE VENEZUELA": DONALD TRUMP

**Diary Times Desk :** After repeated US air strikes on the boats of alleged Venezuelan drug traffickers in the Caribbean, President Donald Trump said that America will "very soon" begin striking "bad ones" living inside Venezuela.

Trump's comments during Tuesday's cabinet meeting hint at further escalation between Washington and Caracas.

"We're going to start doing those strikes on land too. Land is much easier; we know where they live. We know where the bad ones live, and we're going to start that very soon." Trump said during the cabinet meeting. Trump's remarks come after his administration came under heavy scrutiny over its conduct in offensive targeting the alleged drug-trafficking boats, killing more than 80 people so far. Trump, in the meeting, defended War Secretary Pete Hegseth and said that neither he nor the War Secretary knew about the second strike on the suspected drug vessel. The US military had carried out a follow-up strike on a suspected drug vessel operating in the Caribbean on September 2 after an initial attack did not kill everyone on board.



REPUBLICANS WIN CLOSER-THAN-  
EXPECTED TENNESSEE ELECTION

**Diary Times Desk :** Republicans have won a hotly-contested congressional election in Tennessee, US media outlets are projecting, after a race that was viewed as a test of whether Democrats can mount a national comeback next year. With all counties now reporting results, Republican Matt Van Epps is on course to beat Democrat Aftyn Behn by around nine percentage points. That will ensure the Republicans retain their slender majority in the House of Representatives. But their margin of victory is set to be less than half of what it was last time, just over a year ago, which has caused anxiety for some in the party. "It was dangerous," said Republican Senator Ted Cruz while reacting to the results.

HAMAS HANDS OVER ONE OF  
TWO LAST HOSTAGE BODIES IN  
GAZA, RED CROSS SAYS

**Diary Times Desk :** Palestinian militant group Hamas on Tuesday handed over the remains of one of the last two deceased hostages still in Gaza, the International Committee of the Red Cross said, under terms of the October ceasefire deal.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said in a statement that Israeli forces in Gaza had received what it described as "findings" that would be taken into Israel for forensic testing. The two remaining deceased hostages are Israeli police officer Ran Gvili and Thai national Sudthisak Rinthalak, both kidnapped during Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on Israel that touched off two years of devastating war in Gaza.

The Geneva-based ICRC has acted as an intermediary between Gaza militant groups and Israel throughout the war triggered by Hamas' attack, helping facilitate the release of living hostages and the handover of remains. Earlier, an Israeli airstrike killed a Palestinian man, whom local health authorities identified as freelance journalist Mahmoud Wadi, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip.

"USEFUL" BUT "NO  
COMPROMISE" REACHED:  
RUSSIA AS PUTIN, US HOLD  
UKRAINE TALKS

**Diary Times Desk :** High-stakes US-Russia talks on ending the war in Ukraine failed to yield a breakthrough on Tuesday, as the Kremlin said "no compromise" had been found yet on the key question of territory.

Russian President Vladimir Putin met US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and special envoy Steve Witkoff in the Kremlin, after earlier signalling that his forces were ready to fight on to achieve Russia's initial war goals.

The meeting is a crucial moment for Ukraine in what could be a fraught week following days of frantic diplomacy. At the heart of it is a US plan to bring peace, which has since been revised under pressure from Kyiv and its European backers.

On occupied Ukrainian territories, "so far we haven't found a compromise, but some American solutions can be discussed," top Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov said after the meeting in the Kremlin. "Some proposed formulations do not fit us, and work will continue," he added. Trump said progress on ending the nearly four-year-long war would not be easy. "Our people are over in Russia right now to see if we can get it settled.

TRUMP STRUGGLES TO KEEP EYES OPEN DURING CABINET MEETING

**Diary Times Desk :** It was a lengthy White House Cabinet meeting, and it looked like US President Donald Trump struggled to keep up with it on Tuesday. At the start of the session, Trump defended his health and stamina, claiming he was “sharper than I was 25 years ago” while criticising a New York Times report suggesting the 79-year-old slowed down during his second term.

“Trump is sharp, but they’re not sharp,” he said, rebuking reporters for what he called unfair coverage of his health. “You people are crazy,” he added. Then, over the next two hours, Trump appeared to struggle to keep his eyes open. Video footage showed him occasionally closing his eyes and seemingly nodding off while cabinet officials described their work.



80,000 AFGHANS GATHER TO WATCH A 13-YEAR-OLD EXECUTE THE KILLER OF HIS FAMILY

**Diary Times Desk :** A chilling video of a public execution has emerged on social media that reports say is from eastern Afghanistan’s Khost. A man convicted of murdering 13 members of a family, including nine children, was executed on Tuesday at a stadium in Khost, reported several news outlets, including the Associated Press. The execution carried out in a stadium, witnessed by an estimated 80,000 people, was carried out by a 13-year-old boy whose family was among the victims. The executed man, identified by Taliban officials as Mangal, had been convicted by Afghanistan’s Supreme Court and approved for execution by the Taliban’s supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada.

The public execution drew international condemnation, with the United Nations’ Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, calling it “inhuman, cruel and contrary to international law”.

HONDURAN PRESIDENT TO A DRUG TRAFFICKER, ALL ABOUT JUAN ORLANDO HERNANDEZ

**Diary Times Desk :** Honduran ex-president Juan Orlando Hernandez once painted himself as a champion of the fight against drug trafficking only to become one of the most high-profile figures implicated in it.

Last year, he was sentenced to decades in prison, convicted of helping to smuggle hundreds of tons of cocaine into the United States starting in 2004, long before he became president. On Tuesday, he walked free. Despite US prosecutors saying he had turned Honduras into a “narco-state,” the 57-year-old lawyer received a surprise pardon from US President Donald Trump. Hernandez “has been, according to many people that I greatly respect, treated very harshly and unfairly,” said Trump, whose administration has killed dozens of alleged but unproven drug smugglers in boat strikes in Latin America.

NATIONAL GUARD SHOOTING SUSPECT SHOUTED ‘ALLAHU AKBAR’ WHILE FIRING: PROSECUTORS

**Diary Times Desk :** Rahmanullah Lakanwal, who shot two US National Guard members near the White House last week, reportedly shouted “Allahu Akbar” while firing and reloading his gun, according to court documents. Following the incident, prosecutors have charged the 29-year-old Afghan national with murder, assault with intent to kill, and possession of a firearm during a violent crime.

The November 26 shooting, which occurred just blocks from the White House, has been described as a brazen act of violence, with the mayor of Washington D.C. calling it a targeted attack.

The incident, which took place the day before Thanksgiving, claimed the life of 20-year-old US Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, while her colleague, US Air Force Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe (24), remains in critical condition.

On Tuesday, Lakanwal, who was also shot during the confrontation, attended his first court appearance in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia virtually from a hospital bed.

INDIA’S DEPENDENCE ON THE US AND CHINA PLACES IT IN A STATE OF PERSISTENT UNCERTAINTY

**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump-Xi summit in Busan on October 30, 2025 was billed as a thaw in global trade tensions. The two leaders announced what Trump called a “12 out of 10” deal. A one-year framework that promised to trim US tariffs on Chinese goods from roughly 55% to 47%, pauses the threat of 100% hikes, and links future adjustments to Chinese cooperation on fentanyl, soybeans, and rare-earth exports.

Markets responded with relief. Yet, the episode confirmed how deeply trade has become a lever of State power. Even after the so-called truce, tariffs remain at multi-decade highs, and countries that depend on both the US and China now face persistent uncertainty. India sits squarely in this position.

In this post, I argue that India’s exposure is not symmetrical but overlapping. The same industries that face higher US import barriers also rely heavily on Chinese inputs. This pattern of dual dependence reveals the structural constraints facing middle-income economies in a weaponised world economy.

INDIAN NATIONAL GETS 2 YEARS JAIL FOR \$1.17 MILLION US MEDICARE FRAUD



**Diary Times Desk :** An Indian national who admitted to orchestrating a multimillion-dollar Medicare fraud through a Washington-based diagnostic lab was sentenced to two years in federal prison, US Attorney Charles Neil Floyd announced.

Mohammed Asif, 35, who was taken into custody on April 10, 2025, at Chicago O’Hare International Airport as he attempted to board an international flight, has been ordered to pay \$1,174,813 in restitution. He now faces likely deportation after completing his sentence.

Asif pleaded guilty on September 4 to conspiracy to commit health care fraud tied to the operations of American Labworks LLC, a now-defunct diagnostic testing laboratory in Everett, Washington.

US District Judge James L. Robart, delivering the sentence, described the \$1,174,813 fraud loss as “a significant amount of money. It was money that was siphoned out of the Medicare system, which is designed to treat the elderly and the poor... (The defendant) lacks moral character as a knowing participant in the fraud... He is someone the public needs to be protected from.”



MASS WEDDING IN GAZA CELEBRATES JOY AMID THE CITY RUINS



**Diary Times Desk :** Palestinians gathered in the ruins of southern Gaza to celebrate the mass wedding of more than 50 couples on Tuesday, December 2, a rare moment of hope after two years of devastation, death and conflict.

Weddings are a key part of Palestinian culture but have become rare in Gaza during the war, and a tradition that some couples have been able to restart in the wake of a fragile ceasefire.

Couples walked hand-in-hand past the crumbled buildings of southern Gaza in a line of other couples dressed in exactly the same way. "Despite everything that has happened, we will begin a new life," said Hikmat Lawwa, one of the grooms getting ready to marry. "God willing, this will be the end of the war," he said. As roaring crowds waved Palestinian flags in the southern city of Khan Younis, the celebrations were dampened by the ongoing crisis across Gaza. Most of Gaza's 2 million residents.

HONG KONG APARTMENT FIRE TOLL HITS 159, 31 PEOPLE STILL MISSING

**Diary Times Desk :** The death toll in Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades hit 159 on Wednesday, with police revealing that victims included an infant and a 97-year-old as they continued their search for remains in the scorched apartment complex.

Residents forced to flee the only block of the eight not engulfed in flames a week ago returned briefly to their homes to retrieve belongings, as hundreds of others housed in temporary accommodation struggled to rebuild their lives.

Meanwhile, investigators uncovered more bodies in the ruins, some of which have been found on rooftops and stairwells and others reduced to nothing more than ashes, authorities said. Of the 159 bodies found, 140 have been identified. They comprise 91 females and 49 males, aged between one and 97 years.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION HALTS IMMIGRATION APPLICATIONS FOR MIGRANTS FROM 19 TRAVEL-BAN NATIONS

**Diary Times Desk :** The Trump administration is pausing all immigration applications such as requests for green cards for people from the 19 countries banned from travel earlier this year, as part of sweeping immigration changes in the wake of the shooting of two National Guard troops.

The changes were outlined in a policy memo posted Tuesday on the website of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the agency tasked with processing and approving all requests for immigration benefits. The pause puts on hold a wide range of immigration-related decisions such as green card applications or naturalisations for immigrants from those 19 countries that the Trump administration has described as high-risk. It is up to the agency's director, Joseph Edlow, on when to lift the pause, the memo said.

MALAYSIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 370 THAT VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE IN 2014; WHY THE SEARCH NOW



**Diary Times Desk :** Malaysia's transport ministry announced Wednesday that the deep-sea search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 will restart on December 30, renewing hopes of uncovering the fate of the aircraft that disappeared more than ten years ago.

Flight 370, a Boeing 777 carrying 239 people, most of them Chinese nationals, vanished on March 8, 2014, shortly after departing Kuala Lumpur for Beijing. Satellite data later indicated that the jet veered off its planned route and flew south into a remote stretch of the Indian Ocean, where investigators believe it ultimately crashed. According to the ministry, US-based marine robotics company Ocean Infinity will conduct intermittent search operations beginning December 30, covering 55 days in areas assessed to have the highest probability of locating the wreckage. "This latest development reflects the Malaysian government's continued commitment to providing closure to the families impacted by this tragedy," the ministry said. Earlier this year, Malaysia approved a "no-find, no-fee" agreement with Ocean Infinity to examine a new 15,000-square-kilometre section of the seabed. Under the contract, the company would receive \$70 million only if it locates the aircraft. A previous phase of the search was halted in April due to rough weather.

GAZANS RACE TO PRESERVE CULTURAL HERITAGE DAMAGED IN WAR

**Diary Times Desk :** With 70,000 dead, countless injured, hundreds of thousands of people homeless and whole districts laid to waste, the task of rebuilding Gaza is almost beyond comprehension.

But at a handful of sites where the enclave's most valuable historical monuments have been severely damaged, workers are already busy with shovels, trying to dig out the few surviving remnants of the past.

Those include Gaza's most important cultural site, the great Omari Mosque in Gaza's Old City, which Israeli forces struck during the war to destroy what they said was a tunnel under its grounds used by fighters. Palestinians say there is no sign of such a tunnel there, and blame Israel for blasting apart the enclave's religious and cultural heritage. "If the occupation (Israel) believes that by destroying these buildings it can erase the history of this people, it is mistaken," said Hamuda al-Dahdar, an architect and heritage expert at the Centre for Cultural Preservation, which is based in the West Bank city of Bethlehem.

SRI LANKANS SIFT MUD TO UNEARTH VICTIMS 4 DAYS AFTER DEADLY CYCLONE, TOLL NOW 474

**Diary Times Desk :** Villagers in Sri Lanka used spades on Wednesday to clear away mud as they searched for the bodies of relatives and friends days after 13 homes were flattened by a landslide in the dead of night caused by a cyclone that killed 474 people.

Cyclone Ditwah barrelled through the Indian Ocean island nation last week, setting off the landslide in the central region of Mawathura that left only a broken window pane, walls of ruined homes, and a twisted red sari buried in the mud.

"We managed to dig out my uncle, his wife, and his mother-in-law last night," Neil Jayasinghe, who runs a bakery in a nearby town, said. "We just wrapped them in a sheet and buried them nearby. There wasn't even a coffin." The cyclone was among deadly storms that recently swept across South and Southeast Asia to devastate large swathes of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, killing hundreds.

## OLA PAUSES FOOD DELIVERY BUSINESS, PULLS FOODS FROM APP

**Diary Times Desk :** Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Consumer has paused operations of Ola Foods, people familiar with the matter told Moneycontrol, with the service disappearing from the ride-hailing app in recent days.

The cloud-kitchen business, which also operated through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), is not accepting orders, indicating a wider shutdown across both channels.

"The operations are temporarily paused. The company is re-evaluating plans and working on the business plan," a source told Moneycontrol.

It is unclear whether Ola plans to restart Ola Foods or exit the category altogether. Ola Consumer is yet to respond to Moneycontrol's queries. The story will be updated once the company responds.

The development comes at a time when the SoftBank-backed company is re-evaluating non-core businesses amid an ongoing restructuring of its portfolio. Industry executives told Moneycontrol that the company has "paused operations" and put most activities on hold.

## SPACEX, ROCKET LAB, BLUE ORIGIN: WHO HAS ACHIEVED WHAT IN REUSABLE ROCKETS

**Diary Times Desk :** China's Zhuque-3 reusable rocket, developed by private firm LandSpace, failed to make a successful landing on Wednesday, but its debut launch has thrust the global race for reusable rockets into the spotlight.

The stainless steel launcher is designed to put satellites into orbit and then fly its main stage back to Earth for a vertical landing - with the aim of using it again.

If LandSpace can make that work consistently, it would become the first Chinese company - and only the third in the world after SpaceX and Blue Origin - to recover the main stage of an orbital rocket for reuse. SpaceX in the US is so far the only company that has managed to land and fly again the main stage of an orbital rocket.

## 200 INDIGO FLIGHTS CANCELLED, OPS HIT, AIRLINE BLAMES "FLIGHT DUTY" AUDIT

**Diary Times Desk :** IndiGo, India's largest airline, is facing one of its most severe operational breakdowns in recent years, with flight delays and cancellations sweeping across the country.

As per IndiGo's website, the airline operates "well over 2,200 daily flights". Government data from Tuesday shows the airline's on-time performance plunging to just 35 per cent, a dramatic fall for a carrier long associated with punctuality. This implies over 1,400 flights were delayed yesterday.

The turbulence continued on Wednesday, when airports in Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad collectively reported close to 200 cancellations by afternoon, triggering widespread disruption for domestic travellers.

"Some IndiGo flights operating from Mumbai Airport may experience delays or cancellations due to airline-related operational issues. Passengers booked with IndiGo are requested to check the latest flight status directly with the airline before heading to the airport," the Mumbai airport said in a statement.



## GOLD STEADIES AND SILVER EASES FROM RECORD HIGH AS MARKETS AWAIT US DATA

**Diary Times Desk :** Gold prices steadied on Wednesday as traders awaited U.S. economic indicators to gauge the Federal Reserve's policy direction while silver pulled back from a record high.

Spot gold fell 0.1% to \$4,203.58 an ounce by 1128 GMT after losing more than 1% in the previous session. U.S. gold futures for February delivery were up 0.3% at \$4,234.60. "Attention is on key U.S. data that could cement expectations for a metal-supportive December rate cut," said Ole Hansen, head of commodity strategy at Saxo Bank.

Investors are awaiting U.S. November ADP employment figures at 1315 GMT and the delayed September Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) data on Friday. Weaker U.S. economic data and dovish signals from Fed officials have reinforced expectations of a rate cut at the central bank's December 9-10 meeting, with brokerages projecting policy easing. CME's FedWatch tool now shows an 87% chance of a rate cut next week. Non-yielding gold tends to perform well when interest rates are low. Meanwhile, silver fell 0.5% to \$58.15 an ounce after touching a record high of \$58.94.



## MEESHO'S UNUSUAL AND BOLD ANCHOR ALLOCATION CALL EXPOSES GROWING TENSIONS IN NEW-AGE TECH IPOs

**Diary Times Desk :** Meesho's decision to allocate a disproportionately large share of its Rs 2,439-crore anchor book to SBI Mutual Fund was made by the company's management - not its merchant bankers - according to multiple stakeholders familiar with the matter.

The call reflects a growing shift in India's IPO market, with issuers increasingly engaging directly with prospective investors well ahead of the offer, negotiating on price and quantity and, in some cases, overruling banker recommendations. The episode has also exposed how the absence of any framework for "fairness" in anchor allocation leaves room for subjective judgments, creating a multi-sided disagreement among institutional investors over what constitutes equitable distribution in a largely opaque process. The move set off a rare split among large investors. Capital Group, Norges Bank Investment Management, ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund and Nippon India Mutual Fund opted out of the anchor book, unhappy with the scale of allocation granted to SBI MF. A senior executive at the country's second-largest fund house said the decision to walk away was driven by fears of setting a precedent.





FLIGHTS OF MULTIPLE  
AIRLINES DELAYED AFTER  
CHECK-IN GLITCH AT  
MANY AIRPORTS

**Diary Times Desk :** Air India announced late Tuesday evening that check-in systems at all airports are "functioning normally" and its "flights are operating as per schedule" after a brief outage that delayed flights across airports.

The problem persisted for at least 45 minutes before getting addressed, a source told NDTV.

"The third-party system has been fully restored, and check-in at all airports is functioning normally. All our flights are operating as per schedule. We thank our passengers for their understanding," Air India said in an updated post on X.

Earlier, the national carrier said a disruption in the check-in systems at various airports had delayed flights across multiple airlines. "A third-party system disruption has been affecting check-in systems at various airports, resulting in delays across multiple airlines, including Air India," the airline had said in a post.

"While the system is progressively getting restored, some of our flights may continue to experience delays until the situation fully normalises," Air India added.

ADANI GROUP PLANS \$15  
BILLION INDIA AIRPORTS  
EXPANSION BY 2030,  
BLOOMBERG NEWS  
REPORTS

**Diary Times Desk :** India's Adani Group is planning to invest \$15 billion to boost passenger capacity at its airports to 200 million annually in the next five years, Bloomberg News reported on Wednesday, citing people familiar with the matter.

The plan includes adding terminals, taxiways, and a new runway at the Navi Mumbai airport, which is due to open on December 25, the report said. The company will also carry out capacity upgrades at Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, and Guwahati airports, according to the report. The group's airport unit operates eight airports across India, including the Navi Mumbai Airport.

INDIA'S LARGEST ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING PLANT BEGINS  
WORK IN NAIDUPETA

**Diary Times Desk :** Syrma SGS Technology Limited has begun work on what is set to become India's largest Printed Circuit Board (PCB) manufacturing plant in the Naidupeta Industrial Park, Andhra Pradesh. The company, in collaboration with South Korea's Shinyoung Electronics, is investing in a state-of-the-art facility that marks a major step toward making the state a leading electronics and semiconductor manufacturing hub.

The upcoming unit is designed to produce a full range of PCB products used across consumer electronics, automobiles, industrial systems, and advanced technology devices. Modern electronics depend on PCB manufacturing, and the establishment of this plant positions Andhra Pradesh at the heart of a highly competitive and fast-growing global industry. The government's support and the strategic location of Naidupeta, well connected through national highways, railways, airports, and major ports have made the region an attractive destination for large-scale manufacturing. This project alone is expected to generate over 1,000 new jobs, creating opportunities for local youth and supporting the development of skilled manpower in the electronics sector.



DELHI STARTUP FOUNDER SHUTS DOWN COMPANY AFTER  
'FRIVOLOUS COMPLAINT' BY CLIENT



**Diary Times Desk :** Delhi-based entrepreneur Vaibhav Chawla has shut down his warehousing startup, Wherehouse, citing operational challenges after a client's "frivolous complaint" allegedly led to the police detaining several employees without proper documentation. He announced the closure of his company just two days ago on LinkedIn.

Sources in the Delhi Police, however, dismissed claims of detention, stating that no one is in custody. They added that the police had only received a complaint of cheating, which is currently under investigation.

According to its LinkedIn profile, Wherehouse was founded in 2021 as a supply chain intelligence company, helping brands move closer to their customers, enabling faster and more efficient deliveries, and driving business growth. In his post, Chawla, one of the startup's co-founders, said the company had "pushed through every obstacle, capital constraints, operational chaos, and the brutal realities of building consumer infrastructure" to emerge successful.

"We made mistakes, we learned fast, we stayed honest, and we kept showing up every single day. What we built was not small — a real business, real infrastructure, real people, real impact. And a team that gave a part of their life to this dream. We made profits too last year," he added. Chawla, however, admitted that the past few months had been "brutally hard," and that the company's sole focus during this period was "taking care of the people who built it alongside us."

According to Chawla, the client escalated the matter with a "frivolous complaint", which eventually led to police action that he says went too far.

"A frivolous complaint, and the line was crossed. In the past few days, the Wherehouse team was detained without any documentation, only to be released after their families arrived at the police station," he said. "Wherehouse means nothing if we can't protect the very people who built it."

RAVNEET BITTU BACKS PAROLE FOR DETAINED MP AMRITPAL SINGH

**Diary Times Desk :** In a surprising political turn, Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries Ravneet Singh Bittu has publicly supported granting interim parole to jailed MP Amritpal Singh, who is currently lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam under the National Security Act (NSA). Bittu's remarks, made to reporters outside Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday, represent a notable departure from his earlier criticism of the 32-year-old radical preacher and chief of the 'Waris Punab De' outfit. The shift comes amid deepening rifts within Punjab's political landscape ahead of the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, which began on December 1, gets underway. Singh was arrested in April 2023 following a month-long manhunt by Punjab Police amid allegations of inciting violence, promoting separatism, and disrupting public order.

ASHES OF DHARMENDRA IMMERSED IN GANGA IN HARIDWAR

**Diary Times Desk :** The family of veteran actor Dharmendra immersed his ashes in the Ganga at Har Ki Pauri in Haridwar on Wednesday, the family's priest said.

The legendary actor passed away on November 24 at the age of 89.

The rituals were kept completely away from the media and public, family priest Sandeep Parashar Shrotriya told PTI.

The immersion took place at Har Ki Pauri after the pre-ritual ceremonies were performed at a private hotel. Shrotiya said Dharmendra's grandson and Sunny Deol's son Karan Deol reached Har Ki Pauri with family members on a two-wheeler and performed the rituals. According to the priest, Sunny wanted to conduct the rituals himself but due to concerns over crowding, his son Karan performed them instead. Sunny and his brother Bobby Deol reached Haridwar on Tuesday, and the immersion was initially planned for the same day, but it was postponed as one of the relatives could not arrive in time.

GET READY FOR WINTER ADVENTURE! SHIMLA'S ICE SKATING SESSIONS TO BEGIN FROM DECEMBER 4

**Diary Times Desk :** Ice skating sessions at the historic Ice Skating Rink in Shimla are set to begin on December 4, following successful trial runs held on Wednesday.

Around 10 skaters participated in the trail session, after which the Shimla Ice Skating Club decided to commence regular sessions from Thursday. Rajat Malhotra, General Secretary of the club, said, "Only morning sessions will be held for now. Evening sessions will start once day temperatures dip further and the ice quality improves."

"We are also planning to organise a skating carnival in the last week of December if the weather permits," he added.



HIMACHAL MOVES TO MODERNISE MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE WITH KEY AMENDMENTS

**Diary Times Desk :** In a step towards strengthening urban governance, Rural Development and Panchayat Minister Anirudh Singh on Tuesday introduced the Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Assembly. Presented in the absence of Urban Development Minister Vikramaditya Singh, the Bill seeks to upgrade the Himachal Pradesh Municipal Act, 1994, by addressing gaps in accountability, streamlining administrative processes and aligning the Act with current socio-economic realities. A major focus of the amendment is financial transparency. The existing audit structure for municipal accounts has long required firmer statutory grounding. To rectify this, the Bill places municipal audits under the technical supervision of the Principal Accountant General (Audit), Himachal Pradesh. This move is expected to bring greater consistency, credibility and oversight to the financial management practices of urban local bodies across the state. The legislation also resolves long-standing ambiguities related to the tenure of municipal members whose jurisdictions later fall under municipal corporations. By clearly defining their continuation or cessation.

HIMACHAL: BJP STAGES PROTEST OVER 'ANTI-YOUTH' TRAINEE POLICY

**Diary Times Desk :** Former Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, along with members of the BJP Legislative Party, staged a protest on the Vidhan Sabha premises on Tuesday morning, accusing the state government of betraying its promises to young people. The BJP MLAs raised slogans such as "Sukhu ji tum ek kaam karo, kursi chhodo araam karo" and "yuva virodhi sarkaar murdabad", demanding the immediate withdrawal of the government's new job trainee policy. The Opposition labelled the policy "anti-youth", arguing that it replaces genuine employment opportunities with a system that, in their view, undermines the aspirations of job seekers. The new framework substitutes contract appointments with a two-year trainee system for Group A, B and C posts. Under this arrangement, trainees receive fixed pay, gain practical work experience and must clear a departmental examination at the end of the period to be considered for permanent roles. BJP legislators contended that this model contradicts the ruling party's election promise of providing five lakh jobs. They also criticised the discontinuation.

### YOUR HOROSCOPE

04-12-2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Libra**  
Today is going to be a busy day for you. Employed people will get a chance to work with senior officers due to advancement in their professional field. People doing business should avoid exchanging money with any unknown person today. Pregnant women may have to face problems due to changing weather.

**Scorpio**  
Today you may have to face huge arguments in your family over small matters. Employed people may have to face mental problems due to extra workload in the workplace. People doing business may have to travel abroad in connection with business expansion. Diabetic patients should get themselves checked by a doctor in case of any problem today.

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

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

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

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



VIRAL VIDEO OF BIHAR  
BOY SINGING SIDHU  
MOOSEWALA'S '295'  
DRAWS PRAISE ONLINE

Diary Times Desk : A video of a young boy from Bihar singing Sidhu Moosewala's hit track "295" has gone viral on social media.

The clip, shared widely on X, shows the boys singing the socially-charged song, which criticises hypocrisy, injustice and societal judgement.

A social media user described the boy as being inspired by Moosewala's song, saying it "truly reflects the reality of today." Many other users engaged with the clip, praising the boy's confidence. "295", released in 2021, is one of Punjabi singer and rapper Sidhu Moosewala's most widely viewed and discussed tracks, known for its commentary on public perception, law, and the pressures faced by outspoken artists. Since Moosewala's murder in May 2022, his songs have continued to resonate with young listeners.

The identity of the boy in the viral video has not yet been confirmed, but the video continues to circulate, adding to the long list of fan tributes that keep Moosewala's legacy alive.

PROPERTY FATHER  
INHERITS AFTER 1956 IS HIS  
OWN, CHILDREN HAVE NO  
BIRTHRIGHT: HC

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has made it clear that property inherited by a father after 1956 becomes his self-acquired estate, not ancestral land. Under the pre-1956 position, inherited property automatically turned ancestral and his children gained a birthright. But the high court has clarified that the post-1956 legal regime creates no such entitlement, leaving the next generation with no basis to interfere in the father's dealings.

The judgment by Justice Virinder Aggarwal is significant as it makes it clear that property inherited by a son after 1956 through intestate succession loses all ancestral and coparcenary attributes. The land devolving upon a male Hindu under Section 8 of the Hindu Succession Act became his individual, separate property, leaving his children with no birthright and no locus to challenge his alienations.

PUNJAB GOVT ORDERED TO PAY RS 5 LAKH FOR NEGLECTING RETRENCHED  
WORKER'S RIGHTS

Diary Times Desk : The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that a State's prolonged inaction in extending a judicially recognised service benefit "compromises the very essence of a welfare state", while awarding Rs 5 lakh compensation to a work-charged employee who remained entangled in litigation for nearly three decades despite a binding precedent in his favour. "This court cannot help but observe that the very essence of a welfare state, as envisioned by our Constitution, is compromised when the instrumentalities of the State itself become a source of protracted litigation... Once a competent court has settled a legal issue and granted a specific relief to a set of employees, the State is under a solemn obligation to extend the same benefit to all other similarly situated individuals without forcing them to embark upon a fresh and arduous legal journey," Justice Harpreet Singh Brar asserted. Holding that the State's refusal to honour an identical claim violated the mandate of a model employer, Justice Brar asserted that "to grant relief to one and deny it to another identically placed is the very definition of arbitrariness prohibited under Article 14".



PANIPAT WOMAN ARRESTED FOR  
KILLING 6-YEAR-OLD, INVESTIGATION  
UNCOVERS 3 MORE MURDERS



Diary Times Desk : The Panipat police arrested a woman in connection with the murder of a 6-year-old girl in Naultha village. Investigations revealed she's allegedly killed three more children, including her own son.

SP Bhopender Singh stated the woman, originally from Sewah village in Panipat, was married in Bhawar village, Sonapat. She allegedly murdered two children, including her son, in Bhawar in 2023, and another girl in Sewah on August 19.

'BIDDING NOT A HOBBY': ANIL VIJ  
ORDERS PROBE INTO HARYANA  
MAN'S FINANCES WHO FAILS TO PAY  
RS 1.17CR FOR HR88B8888

Diary Times Desk : Haryana Transport Minister Anil Vij has instructed the Transport Department to investigate the financial background of the individual who recently placed the highest bid of Rs 1.17 crore for a special vehicle registration number.

The bidder, who had secured the number HR 88 B 8888 during an online auction, failed to pay the bid amount, resulting in the forfeiture of his security deposit and forcing the department to conduct a reauction.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the incident, Vij said that participating in an auction is a serious responsibility, not a casual activity, adding that, "bidding in an auction is a responsibility and not a hobby". He added that since the bidder backed out after quoting such a large amount, the department will now examine his financial capacity and the source of the funds he claimed to possess.

'FROM HARYANA TO INTERNATIONAL STAGE': MOHIT SHARMA RETIRES FROM ALL  
FORMS OF CRICKET



Diary Times Desk : Veteran India pacer Mohit Sharma on Wednesday announced his retirement from all forms of cricket, bringing an end to a career that spanned 34 international appearances and more than a decade in the Indian Premier League.

The 37-year-old pacer, who featured in 26 ODIs and eight T20Is, made the announcement through an emotional Instagram post, thanking the fans, teammates and officials who shaped his journey from Haryana to the international stage. "Today with a full heart, I announce my retirement from all forms of cricket," Sharma, who featured in four IPL finals without lifting the trophy, wrote on his Instagram page. "From representing Haryana to wearing the India jersey and playing in the IPL, this journey has been nothing short of blessing. A very special thanku to the Haryana Cricket Association for being the backbone of my career. And my deepest gratitude to Anirudh Sir, whose constant guidance and belief in me shaped my path in ways words cannot express." Mohit, who made his India debut in 2013, took 35 wickets in 26 ODIs and six wickets in eight T20s. He was part of India's 2015 ODI World Cup squad and later became a dependable death-overs option for Chennai Super Kings under MS Dhoni.

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.

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.

Its 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.



**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.





VERDURA JEWELLERY: THE COLLECTOR’S GUIDE

Diary Times Desk :

Founded by Duke Fulco di Verdura in 1939 in New York City, Verdura has long been celebrated as one of the foremost names in jewellery, adorning American high society and famous figures throughout the 20th century. Verdura’s aesthetic defied prevailing jewellery conventions in favour of bold, sculptural and colourful designs.

Today, Verdura is widely recognised for iconic pieces like the Maltese Cross Cuff bracelet and Diamond Fan Earclips, popularised by luminaries such as Marlene Dietrich and Babe Paley.

Born in 1898 to Sicilian society, Duke Fulco di Verdura was raised in his grandmother’s country estate outside of Palermo, Italy. Thanks to his aristocratic background, the duke rubbed shoulders with high society figures from a young age, leading to early commissions by important friends-turned-patrons such as Cole Porter.

In 1925, Porter introduced Verdura to Coco Chanel at a party in Sicily. Smitten with Verdura’s non-conformist designs, Chanel took him under her wing for the following decade. Verdura worked at The House of Chanel in Paris, first as a textile designer and then at the helm of her costume jewellery department.

In 1935, the designer relocated to New York, where he began working with the American jewellery designer Paul Flato. Known as a jeweller to the stars, Flato introduced Verdura to Hollywood celebrities including Greta Garbo and Marlene Dietrich, who would become some of his most loyal clients. In 1939, the designer officially established the house of Verdura, opening his first boutique on Fifth Avenue with the financial help of Porter and Paul Astor.

Duke Fulco di Verdura grew into a defining figure in American jewellery during the postwar years, integrating joyful colour, whimsy and elegance into his creations. He transformed familiar motifs like seashells, crescents and stars into designs uniquely his own, full of playful charm and liveliness. Ten years after the Duke’s passing, Verdura was purchased by Ward Landrigan, a longtime industry legend who over the next five decades restored Verdura to its former glory. Helping the company flourish into the 21st century, Landrigan continued Verdura’s legacy for today’s collectors using original sketches and archives. Landrigan passed away in November 2025.



TOP PICKS FROM LUXURY WEEK SELECTED BY OUR SPECIALISTS

Diary Times Desk :

‘This Hermès Tartan Kelly is the third time that Hermès has done a printed swift leather, so it’s very rare, and every time it’s a highly anticipated design. The tartan incorporates many of collectors’ favorite colours, including creamy off-whites along with pinks and greens. It’s very summery, happy and girly. This is a bag for someone special in your life, a great piece that will transition beautifully from winter to spring.’



‘Château Palmer acquired its name from Major General Charles Palmer, who purchased the property in 1814 from Madame Bume de Ferrière. Making wine from Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot grapes with a small amount of Petit Verdot, usually in equal measure, their wines have acquired a status above the 1855 classification of Bordeaux that awarded the property the rank of 3ème Cru Classé. This case of 1961 from The Historic Cellar of Jürgen Schwarz is one of the world’s greatest ever wines, often given the mythical 100 points from the critics, it remains youthful, sumptuous and a delight to drink. One of the classics.’



‘This pocket watch is truly unique. It was consigned to Christie’s from the son of the original owner, who purchased it at a rare Patek Philippe exhibition in 1995 in Texas. Adding to its provenance, the lot is accompanied by its exhibition framed poster illustrating “The Scout” painting by the famed American artist Charles Russell, c. 1907, and detailing the process of this exquisite miniature representation by one of Patek Philippe’s most celebrated enamellers, G. Menni. The enameller carefully followed Charles Russell’s painting, beginning by laying down several bases of pure white enamel to prepare the palette of enamel colors from ground dust; an incredibly arduous process that took over two years to complete, resulting in one of the most spectacular pocket watches of Patek Philippe’s 1990s era.’ ‘I’m very drawn to the relationship between the objects we sell and the socio-historic time in which they were made. In 1986, Audemars Piguet capitalized on the world’s renewed fascination with Egyptomania, while simultaneously going against the watch industry’s status quo. While other brands were fully immersed in monetizing quartz watches, Audemars Piguet took the time to develop the world’s first self-wound tourbillon wristwatch. The atelier also made a rare and rather daring aesthetic design choice. You see, the world was enthralled by a recent global touring exhibition titled The Treasures of Tutankhamun, which ran from 1972 to 1981. The watch dial, with a round open aperture and bursting sunray design, was inspired by an Egyptian relief carving of the Pharaoh Akhenaten and his wife Nefertiti with a near identical motif. Neo-vintage timepieces such as this are more in demand than ever.

THREE TAKEAWAYS FROM BARCELONA 3-1 ATLETICO MADRID



**Diary Times Desk :** Goals from Raphinha, Dani Olmo and Ferran Torres helped Barcelona register a 3-1 win over Atletico Madrid last night in their clash at the Spotify Camp Nou.

The Catalans utterly and thoroughly dominated the game against Diego Simeone's side, creating an xG of 3.88 over 90 minutes when compared to Atletico Madrid's 0.97.

What made the win further stand out was the fact that it was a comeback victory, for the Blaugrana initially were 1-0 down and then went on to overturn the deficit in some style. Barça Universal brings you three takeaways from Barcelona 3-1 Atletico Madrid. PSG, Real Madrid, Chelsea – all of Barcelona's big games prior to last night's clash ended in defeats and the team were clearly struggling to cope with the pressure that comes inevitably with such high-pressure situations.

BARCELONA DEFENSIVE MAINSTAY WILL SIGN NEW FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT NEXT WEEK – ROMANO

**Diary Times Desk :** Soon after finalising the future of Frenkie de Jong, Barcelona have wasted no time trying to secure a contract for Eric Garcia.

The former Man City starlet has been one of the most improved players at Barcelona under the leadership of Hansi Flick.

This season, in particular, Garcia has emerged as a reliable option in defence, with Flick employing him as a right-back, a centre-back and even as a defensive midfielder.

Recent reports have already indicated that Barcelona are in advanced talks to renew the contract of Garcia, which expires at the end of the season. Now, transfer expert Fabrizio Romano has issued a fresh update on the future of Garcia, suggesting that the new deal, which will run for five years, will be signed as soon as next week. This could be a major boost for Barcelona fans who were getting anxious about the delay in Garcia's future. The anxiety crept in even more after the defender was linked with a move to PSG. But Barcelona never had any plans to let him leave.

DECO TALKS FLICK, ARAUJO, LEWANDOWSKI, HAALAND, RASHFORD, ERIC GARCIA – 'HE IS GOING TO RENEW'

**Diary Times Desk :** Speaking on Que t'hi jugues (h/t SPORT), FC Barcelona sporting director Deco has confirmed that Eric Garcia is all set to renew his contract with the club.

Garcia is one of a few players at the club whose contract expires at the end of the season and the director has now confirmed that the versatile defender, who has become a key player for Hansi Flick, will continue beyond this season.

"He is going to renew. There are still some details to be ironed out, but we've discussed it," revealed Deco.

Meanwhile, Robert Lewandowski is another player who finds himself in the same situation, but the former midfielder insisted that no decision had been made with the veteran forward yet.

"He's a player who has one year left on his contract. He's given us a lot and still has a lot to give us, but we haven't talked yet. We have to analyse it year by year," commented Deco. Deco welcomed the recent renewals of Pedri and Frenkie de Jong, which have helped consolidate the project that he and Flick are building.

BARCELONA DIRECTOR PRAISES INFLUENTIAL WINGER – 'HE'S DYNAMIC, EXPRESSIVE, AND HE INFECTS THE TEAM'

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona's season has now taken a turn for the better after a relatively rough start, and injuries have had a major role to play in the same.

Given the financial constraints, however, the team were not able to add substantial depth to the extent that they would have liked, and Hansi Flick is doing a great job at managing with the resources he has.

Joan Laporta and Deco, however, remain alert to the opportunities on the market to strengthen the team in January or in June.

Speaking on Que t'hi jugues (h/t SPORT), Barcelona's sporting director Deco spoke on how he saw the team's performance this season, especially in light of how they have faced repeated injury blows from day one. "It's not just those who were missing; last year we had almost everyone in front almost always available, behind we had solidity because the centrals were always Cubarsi and Inigo; in the midfield only Gavi was absent (long-term)." Elaborating on how this season is different, the former player said,



BARCELONA MIDFIELDER SENDS MESSAGE TO FANS AFTER INJURY BLOW – 'IT AIN'T GONNA STOP ME'

**Diary Times Desk :** At a time when he was looking like the real deal for Barcelona, the football gods have once again cursed Dani Olmo.

The former RB Leipzig playmaker has picked up a fresh injury, which will keep him out on the sidelines for at least a month.

This is a major blow for Barcelona, but even more so for Olmo, whose return to Catalonia has been marred by a series of untimely injuries.

The frequency of these injuries is enough to demotivate any professional footballer. But Olmo is not ready to give up just yet. After the confirmation of his injury, Olmo shared a message to his fans and teammates through social media.

The Spanish international thanked his fans and stated that the injury won't stop him from fighting for the team.

VERSATILITY AND RELIABILITY – TWO BARCELONA STARS STEP UP FOR FLICK IN MAKESHIFT ROLES

**Diary Times Desk :** Barcelona's emphatic 3-1 victory over Atletico Madrid on Tuesday wasn't just about the brilliance of Raphinha, Pedri, or Dani Olmo.

The real stars of the game were the defenders who were able to hold off the attacking threat of Atletico Madrid.

Two players, in particular, shone on the night in the form of Eric Garcia and Gerard Martin, who operated in makeshift roles as a pivot and centre-back, respectively, amid Ronald Araujo taking a break and Frenkie de Jong being absent.

Both players had a brilliant game against Atletico Madrid. Garcia, in particular, was a vital cog in the Barcelona midfield.

Deployed in the double pivot alongside Pedri, the Spaniard was immense. The 24-year-old was the heartbeat of Barcelona's pressing game. He completed 40 of 47 passes, facilitating the team's build-up with precision.

His defensive contribution was equally vital. Garcia recorded two recoveries, won four of six ground duels, and made four clearances, proving to be an effective shield against Atletico's counter-attacks. Garcia's efforts may soon be rewarded, with Barcelona expected to finalise the defender's new contract by next week.