

NEWS IN BRIEF

**NIRAV MODI'S
PRISON MOVE
CREATES
COMPLICATIONS
FOR BANK OF
INDIA TRIAL IN UK**

Diary Times Desk : Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted in India to face fraud and money laundering charges, is forced to share a small prison cell with a shared desk with other inmates without access to most of his legal paperwork, the High Court in London was told on Friday. The 54-year-old accused in the estimated \$2 billion Punjab National Bank (PNB) loan scam was shifted from HMP Thameside in south London to HMP Pentonville in October to facilitate a court appearance in an unrelated debt case. At a pre-trial review hearing for the \$8-million unpaid Bank of India debt, Judge Simon Tinkler was informed that the accused sought an adjournment to the trial scheduled in January 2026 to allow more time for him to prepare his defence and witness statement. "It seems to me that Modi would benefit from having access to his previous handwritten notes," said Justice Tinkler. "It seems to me that we are very close to the point at which the absence of papers for Mr Modi would mean that he is not in a position to prepare for the trial."

**DGCA SETS UP 4-
MEMBER PANEL TO
INQUIRE INTO
INDIGO FLIGHT
DISRUPTIONS**

Diary Times Desk : Aviation watchdog DGCA has set up a four-member committee to carry out a comprehensive review and assessment of the circumstances that led to the massive flight disruptions. The panel members are Joint Director General Sanjay K Bramhane, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Captain Kapil Manglik and Flight Operations Inspector Captain Rampal, as per an order on Friday. The committee will submit its findings and recommendations to the DGCA within 15 days to enable necessary regulatory enforcement action and ensure institutional strengthening, the order said. According to the order, prima facie, the situation indicates deficiencies in internal oversight, operational preparedness, and compliance planning.

**PUTIN IN
INDIA****PM MODI-PUTIN SUMMIT SETS 2030 TRADE TARGET,
SEALS DEFENCE CO-PRODUCTION**

Diary Times Desk : India and Russia on Friday used their 23rd Annual Summit to put a sharper economic, defence and technological edge on what both sides described as a "time-tested progressive partnership", unveiling a 2030 roadmap that links trade expansion, energy security, nuclear and space cooperation with a shared pitch for a multipolar world order.

President Vladimir Putin's state visit to New Delhi, marking 25 years of the India-Russia Strategic Partnership first declared in 2000 - ended with a joint statement that stressed mutual trust, "respect for core national interests" and a relationship both leaders said had remained "resilient" despite a "complex, challenging and uncertain geopolitical situation". On the economic front, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Putin reaffirmed an ambitious target of US\$100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030, with a clear emphasis on making that trade "balanced and sustainable" and boosting Indian exports to Russia.

A new "Programme 2030" for strategic areas of economic cooperation was adopted, and both sides welcomed progress on negotiating a Free Trade Agreement in goods between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, covering sectors of mutual interest. They also tasked negotiators to speed up work on a bilateral investment protection agreement.

Calling for an open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core, the statement zeroed in on practical bottlenecks: tariff and non-tariff barriers, logistics, connectivity gaps, payment mechanisms, and insurance and reinsurance issues - all flagged as key to hitting the 2030 trade target.

**"NOT COULD BE, IT WILL BE": AVIATION MINISTER
ON ACTION AGAINST INDIGO**

Diary Times Desk : IndiGo's operational meltdown is "on the verge of getting resolved", and action against the airline is a question of when, not if, Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has said.

In an exclusive conversation with NDTV on Friday, when IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers stated over 1,000 flights have been cancelled, the minister said all other airlines have faced no problems despite the new Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms coming into effect in November. This, he said, made it clear that the "fault" lay with IndiGo.

To a question on when passengers could expect that things would get better, Naidu said, "I can say it is on the verge of getting resolved. The major congestion has happened in the metro airports... and we are seeing all the metro airports, most of them - Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai - they have been cleared right now of all the backlog of passengers that was there for the past two days. The other ones will also be finished by tonight. And Indigo is going to start operations with limited capacity again from tomorrow."

"As the operations settle down, they are going to increase the capacity. But in terms of passengers not facing a problem, you will see that happening from tomorrow. And the full capacity of IndiGo operations getting back will probably take a couple of more days," he assured.

**CARTIER WATCHES ADD TO TROUBLING
TIMES FOR KARNATAKA CM SIDDARAMAIAH,
HIS DEPUTY SHIVAKUMAR**

Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D.K. Shivakumar may have bought some time from the Congress high command to resolve their differences, but another watch appears to be ticking trouble for the two senior party leaders.

Both were seen wearing similar watches, which television news channel NDTV identified as the Santos de Cartier model, estimated at over Rs 43 lakh, when they shook hands as a show of unity after their second breakfast meeting Tuesday.

The 'yellow-gold' watches glittered with every flash of media cameras, giving the opposition fresh ammunition to attack the ruling party.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Thursday used the watches to target the state government. "Siddaramaiah's watches cost crores of rupees, and he also wears shoes worth lakhs. Earlier, I had found out that he had eight such watches, but now it is anywhere between 18 and 19. You (Siddaramaiah) can keep any number of them as it is your money, but where have you declared it?" Chavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Legislative Council, told reporters.

**RAIDS CONDUCTED IN J&K TO TRACE
WEAPONS SUPPLY NETWORK IN DELHI BLAST
CASE**

Diary Times Desk : The State Investigation Agency (SIA) in Jammu and Kashmir has launched a fresh crackdown on the terror network behind the Delhi Blast, targeting the weapons supply chain and investigating links to suicide bomber Dr Umar Un Nabi.

Raids were conducted in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Srinagar's Batamalo area, aiming to dismantle the terror module's weapons supply chain.

A team of SIA officials searched the residence of Tufail Niyaz Bhat, an air-conditioning technician, in Batamalo's Diyarwani area, and another location in Ganderbal's Wakoora area, targeting the house of Zameer Ahangar.

Tufail was earlier arrested for providing a rifle linked to Dr Adeel Ahmad Rather, one of the main accused in the case and a member of Jaish's white-collar module. The rifle was recovered from Rather's locker in the Government Medical College Hospital, Anantnag. Adeel, Nabi, and his colleagues at Faridabad's Al Falah University, Dr Muzammil Shakeel and Dr Shaheen Saad - all of whom are in National Investigation Agency (NIA) custody - are accused of planning and executing the Delhi blast with other associates.

The police had previously recovered a pistol from Zameer Ahangar, which was given to him by Maulvi Irfan Ahmad Wagey, accused of radicalising the group.

INDIGO FLIGHTS CANCEL

**EXPECT SITUATION TO
NORMALISE BETWEEN
DECEMBER 10 AND 15: INDIGO
CEO**

Diary Times Desk : On a day when IndiGo cancelled more than 1,000 flights, the airline's CEO Pieter Elbers on Friday said the situation is anticipated to normalise between December 10 and 15.

Elbers, in a video message, apologised for the major inconvenience caused to the passengers due to the disruptions.

"Regrettably, earlier measures of the last few days have proven not to be enough. So we decided today for a reboot of all our systems and schedules, resulting in the highest number of cancellations so far, but imperative for progressive improvements starting tomorrow onwards."

"With these actions, we expect tomorrow to have cancellations below 1,000. The support of DGCA, in providing specific FDTL implementation relief, is of great help," Elbers said.

Aviation regulator DGCA has kept in abeyance the implementation of the new Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) norms, and gaps in planning the second phase implementation of these norms are one of the key factors for the current flight disruptions.

IndiGo is the country's largest airline and generally operates around 2,300 flights daily.

**EX-JUDGES, LAWYERS
WRITE LETTER TO CJI
SURYA KANT OBJECTING TO
REMARKS ON ROHINGYAS**

Diary Times Desk : Former Judges, practicing advocates and the Campaign for Judicial Accountability and Reforms have written an open letter to Chief Justice of India Surya Kant expressing their concern over the "unconscionable remarks" made regarding Rohingya refugees by the CJI's bench in a recent hearing. It may be recalled that on December 2, sharply reacting to a petition filed in relation to Rohingyas, a bench led by CJI Kant asked if there was any order issued by the Government of India declaring Rohingyas as 'refugees'.

"Where is the order of the Government of India declaring them (Rohingyas) as refugees? Refugee is a well defined legal term and there is a prescribed authority by the Government to declare them. If there is no legal status of a refugee, and somebody is an intruder, and he enters illegally, do we have an obligation to keep that fellow here?" remarked the CJI.

Taking objection these remarks, particularly the equation of Rohingyas refugees to "illegal intruders digging tunnels" to enter India, the former judges have written to CJI Kant.

INDIGO CEO SAYS LESS THAN 1,000 CANCELLATIONS
TOMORROW, NORMALCY BY DEC 15



Diary Times Desk : IndiGo CEO Pieter Elbers issued a public apology this evening after more than a thousand flights were cancelled today, making it the "most severely impacted day" in terms of cancellations. The biggest airline of the country cancelled "more than half" of its daily number of flights on Friday, said Elbers. He also said that even though the crisis will persist on Saturday, the airline anticipates fewer than 1,000 flight cancellations.

"Full normalisation is expected between December 10 and 15, though IndiGo cautions that recovery will take time due to the scale of operations," the IndiGo CEO said.

IndiGo operates around 2,300 domestic and international flights daily. Pieter Elbers, while apologising for the major inconvenience due to delays and cancellations, said the situation is a result of various causes.

LAMP LIGHTING DISPUTE AT TAMIL
NADU HILL SHRINE REACHES
SUPREME COURT

Diary Times Desk : An appeal has been filed before the Supreme Court by Tamil Nadu authorities challenging the Madras High Court's recent decision to allow devotees of the Arulmigu Subramania Swamy temple to light the Karthigai deepam lamp (to mark the Hindu festival of lights) on the deepathon (stone lamp pillar) atop the lower of the two peaks of the sacred Thiruparankundram hillock [KJ Praveenkumar and anr v. Rama Ravikumar and anr]. The appeal has been filed by the District Collector and Police Commissioner of Madurai district. The matter was mentioned this morning before a Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi. Opposing the appeal, the counsel representing temple devotees said, "State of Tamil Nadu just wants to make a drama here and tell the (Madras) High Court that we have mentioned here." "We are just mentioning," the State authorities' counsel replied. "We will see," said CJI Kant.

PARLIAMENT APPROVES BILL TO RAISE EXCISE DUTY ON
TOBACCO

Diary Times Desk : The Parliament on Thursday approved the Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025 with the Rajya Sabha returning it to the Lok Sabha.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while replying to the discussion in Rajya Sabha, said the higher duties on cigarettes will be shared with the states. "This is not a cess but excise duty. The amount will be redistributed to the States as per the Finance Commission's recommendations."

Talking about the impact on tobacco farmers and beedi workers, the Finance Minister said the Bill will not harm tobacco farmers and beedi workers.

"There are many schemes, including crop diversification scheme, to take care of tobacco farmers, to encourage them to move to other crops from tobacco," she said.

SOME SHIELDING HIM: PINARAYI VIJAYAN AS COPS
INTENSIFY SEARCH FOR RAHUL MAMKOOTATHIL

Diary Times Desk : Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the police were taking "effective measures" to trace Palakkad MLA Rahul Mamkootathil, who has been absconding for the past nine days amid cases of sexual harassment against him.

His comments came a day after the Congress expelled him from the party soon after a Kerala court dismissed his anticipatory bail plea in the first rape case, which was registered after a woman lodged a complaint with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

He suggested that certain individuals may have helped the accused evade arrest. "Some have adopted measures to protect this accused and help him escape. There are even reports suggesting the places where he is hiding, including that he is in Karnataka. We need to doubt whether these steps are being taken purposely to protect him," he said, urging that such support "should stop at least from now on."



S THAROOR TO ATTEND STATE DINNER FOR
PUTIN. NO INVITE TO RAHUL GANDHI

Diary Times Desk : Shashi Tharoor will attend Friday night's State dinner in honour of Russian President Vladimir Putin, but Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge will not, party sources told NDTV this evening. Congress MP Tharoor - whose relationship with his party has deteriorated over the past six months, fuelled by speculation of a seismic switch to the BJP - confirmed his participation this evening; he said his invitation reflected the courtesy offered to the head of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs. However, on neither Rahul Gandhi nor Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the President of the country's largest opposition party, being offered a similar courtesy, Tharoor professed himself 'unaware of the process followed for invitations (to State dinners)'. Later in the evening another Congress leader, Pawan Khera, took a swipe at Tharoor, though he did not name him; "It is quite surprising an invitation was sent and accepted also. Everyone's conscience has a voice. When my leaders aren't invited... but I am... we should understand why the game is being played, who is playing the game, and why we shouldn't be part of it..."

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BLAST CASE



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Raids were conducted in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district and Srinagar's Batamaloo area, aiming to dismantle the terror module's weapons supply chain.

A team of SIA officials searched the residence of Tufail Niyaz Bhat, an air-conditioning technician, in Batamaloo's Diyarwani area, and another location in Ganderbal's Wakoora area, targeting the house of Zameer Ahangar.

'MAMATA BANERJEE WILL BE EX-CHIEF MINISTER IN 2026': MLA HUMAYUN KABIR

Diary Times Desk : Suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir on Thursday escalated his attack on West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, declaring that she will no longer remain in power after the 2026 Assembly elections.

In a strong statement targeting the Chief Minister, Kabir said to reporters, "The Chief Minister should be an ex-Chief Minister. In 2026, the Chief Minister will not become the Chief Minister, will not be sworn in, and will be branded as an ex-Chief Minister."

Kabir's remarks come hours after the TMC suspended him over his remarks in which he claimed that he would inaugurate a Babri Masjid in the state's Murshidabad district on December 6.

Earlier today, West Bengal MLA Kabir said that he will resign from the party tomorrow, and might even announce his own party on December 22. "I will resign from TMC tomorrow. If required, I will announce a new party on December 22," the suspended party leader told reporters.

DGCA SETS UP 4-MEMBER PANEL TO INQUIRE INTO INDIGO FLIGHT DISRUPTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Aviation watchdog DGCA has set up a four-member committee to carry out a comprehensive review and assessment of the circumstances that led to the massive flight disruptions.

The panel members are Joint Director General Sanjay K Bramhane, Deputy Director General Amit Gupta, Senior Flight Operations Inspector Captain Kapil Manglik and Flight Operations Inspector Captain Rampal, as per an order on Friday.

The committee will submit its findings and recommendations to the DGCA within 15 days to enable necessary regulatory enforcement action and ensure institutional strengthening, the order said.

According to the order, prima facie, the situation indicates deficiencies in internal oversight, operational preparedness, and compliance planning, "warranting an independent examination".

The DGCA said it has issued repeated directions and advance instructions from time to time to the airline for having timely preparation to implement the provisions related to the FDTL norms.

SC TELLS KERALA CM, GUV TO REACH CONSENSUS OR COURT WILL APPOINT VCS

Diary Times Desk : The Supreme Court on Friday said it will intervene to resolve the ongoing deadlock over the selection of vice chancellors for two technical universities in Kerala if Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Governor-cum-chancellor Rajendra Arlekar do not reach a consensus. A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and PB Varale was hearing the matter related to the appointments of VCs of the APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, and the University of Digital Sciences Innovation and Technology. The bench asked Attorney General R Venkataramani, appearing for the governor, and senior advocate Jaideep Gupta, representing the chief minister, to find out some amicable solution to the impasse. Venkataramani submitted that the Justice (Retd) Sudhanshu Dhulia committee had recommended two sets of names and the chancellor had picked two names.



INDIGO DISRUPTIONS: MINISTER NAIDU SAYS OPERATIONS TO NORMALISE IN 3 DAYS; ORDERS INQUIRY

Diary Times Desk : Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu on Friday said various operational measures, including keeping new flight duty norms in abeyance, will help address the IndiGo flight disruptions, and complete restoration of services is expected in next three days.

The government has also decided to institute a high-level inquiry to determine the reasons and accountability for the IndiGo disruptions that has resulted in hundreds of flight cancellations and delays in the past four days. The civil aviation ministry has taken urgent and proactive measures to address the ongoing disruption in flight schedules, particularly those of Indigo airlines, Naidu said in a statement. "The Flight Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) orders of the DGCA have been placed in abeyance with immediate effect. Without compromising on air safety.

'SAU SAAL PEHLE MUJHE TUMSE PYAR THA': LAW MINISTER MEGHWAL SINGS BOLLYWOOD CLASSIC AT GANG CANAL CENTENARY EVENT

Diary Times Desk : BJP MP from Bikaner and Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal couldn't hide his love for singing at a public meeting near Sriganganagar today, during the centenary celebrations of the foundation-stone laying of the Gang Canal.

While narrating the story of then Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner, he presented the classic Bollywood song 'Sau Saal Pehle Mujhe Tum Se Pyar Tha'.

Meghwal presented the song with the permission of Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, and jokingly remarked that the CM often tells him to present a song on such occasions.

Arjun Ram Meghwal is a skilled singer and is particularly adept at singing bhajans. At the ceremony, he presented the song as a tribute to Maharana Ganga Singh, who founded the Gang Canal a hundred years ago.

SC GRANTS BAIL TO MAN BOOKED UNDER UAPA AS CHARGESHEET NOT FILED WITHIN STIPULATED PERIOD

Diary Times Desk : Taking strong exception to the incarceration of a Myanmar citizen in Assam for two years under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) for allegedly possessing counterfeit India currency notes without even filing a chargesheet, the Supreme Court on Friday granted him bail declaring his custody to be illegal.

"Whatever be the stringent provisions under UAPA, the law does not provide for illegal custody. This is appalling. For two years, you did not file the chargesheet and the man has been in custody? This is, in fact, illegal custody. You consider yourself to be the premier investigating agency of the country...", a Bench led by Justice Vikram Nath told the Assam Government counsel. The Bench — which also included Justice Sandeep Mehta — pulled up the Assam Police for not filing the chargesheet within the statutory period of under the UAPA which can be extended to 180 days with the permission of the court concerned.

INDIGO'S FLIGHT CHAOS SPOILS INDIA'S WEDDING PARTIES

Diary Times Desk : Traditional wedding functions are a big affair in India, but they have become a major casualty of the crisis engulfing India's biggest airline, IndiGo.

IndiGo's mass cancellations this week left thousands of passengers stranded, but the disruptions jolted brides and grooms hard — a couple was forced to attend their own wedding reception virtually, many rushed to reschedule and one family opted for a pricier charter flight. Even the Singapore High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong, was trapped in the chaos, posting on X that his flight was cancelled and he was "lost for words" as he could not attend the wedding of a young staff member in the remote town of Deoghar, in eastern India. The cancellations come during the peak wedding season — a USD 130 billion sector in India in which families spend a large chunk of their wealth for extensive, days-long celebrations with a high dose of music, dance and gifts.



**INDONESIAN MILITARY STEPS UP
RELIEF EFFORTS FOR FLOOD-HIT
SUMATRA; DEATH TOLL CROSSES
860**

Diary Times Desk : Indonesia's military stepped up its relief efforts in three provinces on Sumatra island that have been devastated by deadly floods and landslides, and the country's vice president apologised for shortcomings in the response to last week's disaster.

The military has erected at least 10 portable bridges, called "Bailey bridges", in Aceh, North Sumatra and West Sumatra provinces to help with the distribution of food and aid supplies to isolated residents, Major General Freddy Ardianzah told reporters on Friday.

"The construction of these bridges is crucial to distribute logistics. Some of the roads are still blocked so the aid is yet to reach those affected by the disaster," he said.

Ardianzah said the military was also deploying mobile reverse osmosis systems, which make polluted water safe to drink, and would continue to make airdrops of food and medications to residents still cut off from road access.

Indonesia's death toll from last week's cyclone and subsequent severe flooding and landslides rose to 867 people on Friday afternoon with 521 listed as missing, government data showed. The storm systems also killed about 200 people in southern Thailand and Malaysia.

Local government officials on Sumatra have been calling on the government to declare a national emergency to free up additional funds for rescue and relief efforts. Earlier this week, President Prabowo Subianto had said the situation was improving and current arrangements were sufficient, but his deputy took a different view after visiting affected areas on Thursday.

**IN NIGERIA, ANGUISH TURNS TO ANGER FOR PARENTS OF 250 KIDNAPPED
CHILDREN**

Diary Times Desk : Two weeks after one of Nigeria's worst school kidnappings, parents of the more than 250 missing children are desperate for news and dismayed at what they see as the slow response from authorities.

Sunday Gbazali, a farmer and father of 12 whose 14-year-old son was among those seized on November 21 in a remote village of northern Nigeria, said he barely sleeps and his wife constantly cries thinking about their boy.

"They (the police) are just telling us to exercise patience, that they are trying to rescue the children." "We are not happy with what is happening," he said.

The Christian Association of Nigeria said 303 children and 12 school staff were kidnapped by gunmen at St Mary's Catholic boarding school in Papiri, a hamlet in the state of Niger.

**EDINBURGH AIRPORT SAYS NO FLIGHTS
CURRENTLY OPERATING DUE TO IT ISSUE**

Diary Times Desk : Edinburgh Airport says no flights are operating on Friday morning due to computer problems in the air traffic control system. The airport says teams are working on the issue and would resolve it as soon as possible. The airport, in a statement released on X, advised passengers to check with their airlines for the latest flight information.

**OPRAH WINFREY PRAISES AUSTRALIA'S
SOCIAL MEDIA BAN FOR CHILDREN**

Diary Times Desk : American talk show host Oprah Winfrey has praised Australia's decision to ban social media for under-16s from next week, saying the move would help young people socialise more.

The law, due to take effect on December 10, will block children and teenagers from platforms such as TikTok, Meta's Instagram and Snap's Snapchat. The government says the ban will protect young people from harmful content and online predators.

"I think you're going to change the lives of an entire generation of kids who are going to have better lives," Winfrey said at an event in Sydney on Thursday night, according to local media.

Winfrey, who is currently on a nationwide speaking tour of Australia, said she was particularly concerned about the impact of the internet on young boys. "There are all of these young people who cannot actually communicate or have a conversation, particularly young boys because they become addicted to porn so early and don't know how to actually ask somebody out on a date, haven't experienced the socialisation of talking to a real person," she said. "So once again, Australia leads the way for the rest of the world." Governments across the world are watching the impact of the ban, a world first that carries a fine of up to A\$49.5 million (\$33 million). The majority of affected platforms have said they will comply.

**EU REGULATORS HIT ELON
MUSK'S X WITH 120 MILLION
EURO FINE FOR BREACHING
BLOC'S SOCIAL MEDIA LAW**

Diary Times Desk : European Union regulators on Friday fined Elon Musk's social media platform X 120 million euros (USD 140 million) for failing to comply with the bloc's digital regulations. The European Commission issued its decision following an investigation it opened two years ago into X under the 27-nation bloc's Digital Services Act. Also known as the DSA, it is a sweeping rulebook that requires platforms to take more responsibility for protecting European users and cleaning up harmful or illegal content and products on their sites, under threat of hefty fines. The Commission said it was punishing X, previously known as Twitter, because of three different breaches of the DSA's transparency requirements. The decision could rile President Donald Trump, whose administration has lashed out at digital regulations from Brussels and vowed to retaliate if American tech companies are penalised.

Regulators said X's blue checkmarks broke the rules because of their "deceptive design" that could expose users to scams and manipulation.

**DEADLY SUMATRA FLOODING
TRIGGERS MEMORIES OF INDIAN
OCEAN TSUNAMI**

Diary Times Desk : For fisherman Effendi Basyaruddin, the deadly floods and landslides in Indonesia's Aceh province over the past week have triggered traumatic memories of the day 21 years ago when he ran for his life as the ocean rose like a cliff face and smashed through his hometown.

Nearly 2,00,000 people died in Aceh alone after a 9.1-magnitude quake off the northern province triggered the catastrophic Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, 2004.

"I saw the highest wave during the tsunami, about 20 metres high," Effendi said. "But the flooding was greater ... villages became a river." Those memories have been revived for the 64-year-old after cyclone-induced floods and landslides bore down on three provinces on Sumatra island. More than 800 people have died in Indonesia as a result, including more than 200 in Aceh, and the storm systems have also killed about 200 people in Thailand and Malaysia. "We were very traumatised," said Effendi, whose house was swept away. He is now living in a tent near the ocean, which he sees as both a friend and a foe. Effendi is not alone in his suffering and problems reaching isolated villages and getting aid to those in need have added to residents' pain.

AIR AMBULANCE DELAY DEFERS BANGLADESH EX-PM ZIA'S DEPARTURE FOR LONDON TO SUNDAY: BNP



Diary Times Desk : The scheduled departure of critically ill former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia for London for advance treatment has been deferred to Sunday as an air ambulance offered by Qatar could not reach Dhaka, a senior leader of her party said on Friday.

The 80-year-old head of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), who was hospitalised on November 23, was originally scheduled to leave for London late on Thursday night or early Friday.

"If everything goes well, it (the air ambulance) may arrive tomorrow (Saturday) and if madam's health permits travel and her medical board gives its approval, then, InshaAllah (God willing), she will fly out on the 7th (Sunday)," BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir said. According to a statement issued by Zia's media cell, Alamgir said due to technical flaws, the special aircraft provided by Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani could not reach Dhaka as scheduled on Thursday but "it would expectedly reach Dhaka on Saturday."

A medical board looking after Zia on Thursday decided to send her to London for advanced treatment, her party said.

FRAUD WORTH PKR 106 MILLION FOUND IN KP EDUCATION SECTOR: REPORT

Diary Times Desk : A high-level inquiry by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Elementary and Secondary Education Department has unearthed a massive Pakistani currency (PKR) 106.04 million fraud in a World Bank-funded education project, revealing shocking lapses, collusion, and institutional negligence within the provincial system, as reported by Dawn. According to Dawn, the funds were part of a PKR 26 billion World Bank loan intended to enhance access to, and the quality and infrastructure of, education in Peshawar, Haripur, Nowshera, and Swabi districts under the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Human Capital Investment Project (KP-HCIP).

PM MODI-PUTIN TOUCH UPON REGIONAL, GLOBAL ISSUES, SIGN MOUS DURING 23RD INDIA-RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT

Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin held an extensive range of talks aimed at strengthening the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia.

Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal said that the leaders witnessed exchange of several documents. In a post on X, he said, "PM Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin held extensive talks at Hyderabad House today during the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit. Both leaders discussed all aspects of India-Russia relations which are deep-rooted and multifaceted. They reaffirmed mutual commitment to further strengthen the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. They also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. The leaders witnessed exchange of several documents, including MoUs on Trade and Commerce, Migration and Mobility, Maritime Cooperation, Health and Food Safety, Fertilizers, Academic Exchanges, Media Cooperation and enhancing People to People ties."

UK UNIVERSITIES CLAMP DOWN ON PAKISTANI APPLICANTS AMID RISING VISA FRAUD AND ABUSE

Diary Times Desk : In a move that has sparked outrage among aspiring students, several British universities have halted or restricted admissions from Pakistan and Bangladesh, citing rising visa misuse and mounting pressure from the UK Home Office to curb fraudulent applications. At least nine universities have suspended recruitment from what officials describe as "high-risk" countries following an alarming increase in asylum claims from international students, as reported by The Financial Times. According to The Financial Times, the University of Chester has announced a suspension of student recruitment from Pakistan until autumn 2026, citing a "sudden surge in visa refusals."



RED CARPET ROLLED OUT FOR PUTIN'S CEREMONIAL WELCOME AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

Diary Times Desk : Russian President Vladimir Putin was welcomed by President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he received a ceremonial welcome and the tri-services guard of honour at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday.

The ceremonial welcome was accorded at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, following which, Putin inspected the Guard of Honour. The Russian, Indian national anthems were played to welcome Putin.

The Russian President is on a two-day State visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Delhi LG VK Saxena, CDS General Anil Chauhan and other dignitaries were present at the ceremony. President Droupadi Murmu and Russian President Vladimir Putin introduced each other to the dignitaries from each other's country. Among the Russian dignitaries included Russian defence minister Andrey Belousov and Kremlin aide Dmitry Peskov.

36 ROOMS, BUTTERFLY SHAPED, BUILT IN 1920: THE LAST NIZAM'S RESIDENCE WELCOMES PRESIDENT PUTIN

Diary Times Desk : In the heart of New Delhi, a palace stands tall, its grandeur a testament to the lavish lifestyle of the Nizam of Hyderabad, Mir Osman Ali Khan, once the richest man in the world. Hyderabad House, designed by renowned architect Edwin Lutyens, is a masterpiece of European and Mughal architecture, spread across 8.2 acres near India Gate.

Built in the 1920s at a staggering cost of ₹200,000 (approximately Rs 170 crore today), Hyderabad House was the Nizam's Delhi residence, showcasing his immense wealth and status. The palace boasts 36 rooms, courtyards, archways, majestic stairways, fireplaces and fountains — all reflecting the Nizam's exquisite taste. Hyderabad House was the largest and grandest royal palace Lutyens designed in Delhi between 1921 and 1931; surpassed only by the Viceroy's House (now Rashtrapati Bhavan). Lutyens' design, inspired by his 'butterfly' plan, features a central dome, symmetrical wings and striking rhombic marble floor designs. The 'wings' of the butterfly merged with the adjacent roads. The palace's unique blend of European and Mughal styles makes it a standout among Delhi's princely residences. The main architectural feature of the palace is the dome with an entrance hall, beneath which obelisks.

CHINA-LINKED CYBERCRIME RINGS TIGHTEN GRIP ON AFRICA AS NIGERIA BECOMES GLOBAL FRAUD HOTSPOT

Diary Times Desk : Africa is fast emerging as the new battleground in a sweeping wave of cybercrime, with Nigeria at its centre, exposing the growing reach of China-linked digital fraud syndicates across the continent. Large-scale raids in Lagos and Abuja between late 2024 and early 2025 uncovered extensive online scam operations run with corporate precision. Nearly 1,000 individuals, including 177 Chinese nationals, were arrested in what authorities described as one of Nigeria's most complex cybercrime investigations to date, as reported by Capital News.

According to Capital News, these were not small-time fraud cells but sophisticated setups resembling professional offices equipped with computers, thousands of SIM cards and structured training units.



INDIA ANNOUNCES FREE 30-DAY E-TOURIST VISA FOR RUSSIANS

Diary Times Desk : India has moved to further strengthen its ties with Russia by announcing free 30-day e-tourist visas and 30-day group tourist visas for Russian citizens. While addressing the joint press address with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this new visa facility for Russian travellers.

"I am happy that very soon we are going to introduce a free 30-day e-tourist visa and a 30-day group tourist visa for Russian citizens," PM Modi said. PM Modi highlighted that cooperation between India and Russia is widening into new areas, including maritime training in extreme climatic regions. He said both countries will begin working together to train Indian seafarers for operations in polar waters.

"Now we will also cooperate to train India's seafarers for operations in polar waters. This will not only give new strength to our cooperation in the Arctic but will also create new employment opportunities for India's youth," he noted.

FOXCONN'S EXIT CRUMBLES CHINA'S INDUSTRIAL EMPIRE UNDER CCP MISRULE

Diary Times Desk : The abrupt shutdown of Foxconn's Henyang Hong Fujin Precision Industry facility on September 30, 2025, has sent tremors through central China's industrial heartland. Once home to 30,000 workers and a major contributor to the regional economy, the now-abandoned complex reflects a deeper malaise in China's manufacturing sector, a crisis rooted in corruption, erratic governance, and dwindling investor confidence, as reported by Daily Mirror Online.

According to Daily Mirror Online, for decades, China thrived as the "world's factory," attracting multinational giants like Foxconn with cheap labour and state-backed infrastructure. The company, Apple's largest supplier, once accounted for over 80 per cent of Zhengzhou's exports and half of Henan's total. But when Foxconn began relocating operations to Vietnam and India, local economies plunged.

'AMIDST GLOBAL CHALLENGES, INDIA-RUSSIA FRIENDSHIP REMAINED STEADFAST LIKE A POLE STAR': PM MODI



Diary Times Desk : In a joint statement with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded Putin's visionary leadership in deepening the India-Russia ties and said that despite global challenges, the friendship has remained steadfast. He announced that the countries have discussed about an 'Economic Cooperation Programme' till 2030 and are working towards the early conclusion of an FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union.

"Over the past eight decades, the world has witnessed numerous ups and downs. Humanity has had to pass through many challenges and crises. Amidst all this, the India-Russia friendship has remained steadfast like a pole star. These relations, rooted in mutual respect and deep trust, have always stood the test of time. The relationship which stands on mutual respect and deep trust have always stood the test of times," PM Modi said

PM Modi shared that India and Russia have reached an understanding 'Economic Cooperation Programme' till 2030 and his will diversify, balance and make trade and investment sustainable. PM Modi expressed optimism for the India-Russia Business forum which is scheduled to take place later today to serve as a platform for further strengthening the business ties between the two countries. "It will open new doors to export, co-production and co-innovation. Both sides are working towards the early conclusion of an FTA with the Eurasian Economic Union".

PAKISTAN'S BORDER POLITICS HELPING IRAN CRUSH BALOCH VOICES, BASC REPORT REVEALS

Diary Times Desk : A new report by the Baloch Advocacy and Studies Center (BASC) analysing human rights violations in Iran's Balochistan region has exposed alarming levels of state-sanctioned violence against the Baloch minority, pointing to Pakistan's indirect complicity through its cross-border economic and security ties with Tehran. The report, "Analyzing Patterns of Human Rights Violations in Balochistan, Iran," documents extrajudicial killings, mass detentions, and systemic discrimination that have turned the province into one of the most militarised regions in the country. According to the findings, at least 84 fuel carriers and 87 others were injured in the first half of 2025, as Iranian forces routinely opened fire on impoverished Baloch workers transporting fuel across the border. May emerged as the deadliest month, with 25 deaths recorded. The report underlines that these "Soukhtbar" traders, mostly young men forced into dangerous smuggling by chronic unemployment, remain victims of both Iranian repression and Pakistan's border control policies, which block safer trade alternatives.

OP SAGAR BANDHU: INDIA SETS UP FULLY OPERATIONAL FIELD HOSPITAL IN SRI LANKA'S MAHIYANGANAYA AMID CYCLONE DITWAH

Diary Times Desk : India's ongoing humanitarian assistance initiative, Operation Sagar Bandhu, has taken a major step forward as an Indian medical team establishes a fully operational field hospital in Sri Lanka's Mahiyanganaya, near Kandy, to support communities affected on the ground, as the island nation deals with one of the most devastating tropical storms, Cyclone Ditwah.

In a post on X on Friday, the High Commission of India in Colombo said the facility is being set up to provide urgent, life-saving care to those affected.

"Operation Sagar Bandhu continues healing on the ground. A fully operational field hospital is being set up by the Indian medical team in Mahiyanganaya near Kandy, bringing trauma care, surgical capability, ambulances and critical services directly to a hard-hit community. Ensuring those impacted have access to urgent, life-saving medical support," the High Commission posted.

BORDER CLOSURE CRISIS DEEPENS AS PAKISTANI EXPORTS TO AFGHANISTAN
REMAIN DISRUPTED



Diary Times Desk : Dozens of Pakistani truck drivers transporting goods to Afghanistan are stuck for weeks at major border crossings, victims of an escalating standoff between Pakistan and Afghanistan that has crippled regional trade.

The closure of vital trade routes has left hundreds of vehicles parked at crossing points, where drivers, deprived of food, money and shelter, struggle to survive in dire conditions, as reported by The Express Tribune.

According to The Express Tribune, exporters and logistics firms said the suspension of cross-border operations has virtually frozen the movement of Pakistani kinnow exports and other shipments headed to Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asian countries. The border closures, in place since October 11, followed heavy clashes between Pakistani and Afghan forces, the most serious since the Taliban regained power in 2021 after Islamabad accused Kabul of failing to curb militants operating from its territory.

'VISIT BY PRESIDENT PUTIN
MARKS CRUCIAL JUNCTURE
IN DEVELOPING ECONOMIC
TIES': YAROSLAV LISSOVOLIK

Diary Times Desk : The visit by Russian President Vladimir Putin to India can be a milestone in terms of new initiatives and measures, along with the two countries exploring collaboration in areas like IT and AI to correct trade imbalances and realise untapped spheres between Moscow and New Delhi, according to Yaroslav Lissovolik, founder Brics+ Analytics & Member of Russian International Affairs Council. Yaroslav said that the visit by President Putin marks a "crucial juncture" in the development of economic ties between the two countries.

Speaking about the untapped potential, Lissovolik told ANI that increased cooperation in international fora like the G20 and BRICS reflects a productive cooperation between the two countries. He noted that to correct the trade imbalances, the two countries can think of possible solutions like, "I think some of the possible solutions include mutual trade liberalization, the possibility to look into greater presence of Indian goods in the markets of BRICS economies- agriculture, pharmaceuticals."

"Another important sphere that hasn't been really targeted to a greater degree before is services and the possibility to cooperate and trade in the services sector- including in areas that have to do with IT, AI related services. This I think that to a significant degree even out these imbalances."

"WE ARE AGAINST TERRORISM
IN ALL ITS FORMS": FINLAND
ENVOY TO INDIA LAHDEVIRTA

Diary Times Desk : Finland's Ambassador to India, Kimmo Lahdevirta, reaffirmed Finland's firm stance against terrorism while highlighting the strength of ties between New Delhi and Helsinki as the Nordic nation marked its 108th Independence Day. Speaking at a celebration event in the national capital on Thursday, Ambassador Lahdevirta noted the common priorities that the two countries share across several critical sectors.

"Today we are celebrating the 108th Independence Day of Finland, and it's a great day because we are also celebrating the friendship and partnership between Finland and India," he said. "This is something that really unites us in many ways, as we have common priorities like digitalisation, education, sustainability and innovation," Lahdevirta added.

"WE SEE A FRIENDLY COUNTRY IN INDIA":
RUSSIAN CHESS GRANDMASTER SERGEY
KARJAKIN

Diary Times Desk : Russian chess grandmaster Sergey Karjakin on Friday expressed confidence in the growing warmth between New Delhi and Moscow, calling India a "friendly country" and a key partner for future collaborations, as Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in the country for a two-day state visit. Speaking in Delhi, Karjakin said, "I hope our relationship will grow. We see a friendly country in India. We hope we'll have a lot of projects here and maybe also in chess." Karjakin, a chess grandmaster himself, also highlighted the impressive rise of India's chess talent and the strength of both nations' training systems. "We have two strong chess schools, both in Russia and in India. There are a lot of young grandmasters here in India," he said. "It will be difficult for Russia to keep this tension... There is not only Gukesh. There are also Erigaisi and Praggnanandhaa. One of them can be the next world champion."

INDIA DELIVERS 63,734 DOSES OF
INFLUENZA AND MENINGITIS VACCINES TO
AFGHANISTAN

Diary Times Desk : India delivered 63,734 doses of Influenza and Meningitis vaccines to Afghanistan to address urgent medical needs.

In a post on X, MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "Reaffirming its commitment to support Afghanistan's public health. India delivers 63,734 doses of Influenza and Meningitis vaccines to Kabul." Last week, India delivered 73 tonnes of life-saving medicines, vaccines, and essential supplements to Kabul to address urgent medical needs. In a post on X, the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said, "Augmenting Afghanistan's healthcare efforts. India has delivered 73 tonnes of life-saving medicines, vaccines and essential supplements to Kabul to cater to urgent medical needs. India's unwavering support to the Afghan people continues."

UAE FIELD HOSPITAL CONTINUES TO PROVIDE MEDICAL SERVICES TO GAZA
STRIP RESIDENTS



Diary Times Desk : The UAE field hospital in Gaza continues to receive patients and deliver specialised medical services to residents of the Strip, reaffirming its humanitarian commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare and essential treatment services. The hospital's work is part of the UAE's ongoing efforts to support the healthcare sector and alleviate the suffering of civilians amid challenging humanitarian conditions. Abdulrahman Hamad Al Aryani, Director of the UAE field hospital in Gaza, said, "We continue our work at the field hospital with full readiness to provide medical care to the people of Gaza. This comes within the framework of ongoing cooperation with the Ministry of Health in Gaza and the World Health Organisation to ensure patients receive effective and timely treatment." He added, "We strive to deliver necessary healthcare services at the highest level of preparedness, with a focus on rapid response to urgent medical needs and supporting the health sector in addressing current humanitarian challenges." Ali Al Shehhi, Head of the UAE Mission in Gaza, said the UAE field hospital and the teams of Operation Chivalrous Knight 3 continue to receive patients and offer essential healthcare services across various specialties, ensuring an effective response to the urgent medical needs in the Strip. He added that these efforts fall within the UAE's ongoing humanitarian role in strengthening healthcare services and alleviating the suffering of Gaza's residents under difficult humanitarian circumstances.

LEADERS POINT TO CRITICAL GAP AND EMERGING OPPORTUNITY IN INNOVATION CHAIN AT CII GLOBAL SUMMIT

Diary Times Desk : At the CII Global Summit on Industry-Academia Partnership on Friday, industry leaders stressed that India must narrow the gap between research and real-world needs to keep pace. CII identified both a problem and an opportunity. Speaking to ANI on the sidelines of the summit, Rohit Bansal, Group Head, Corporate Communications, Reliance Industries Ltd, said the divide between industry and academia had become too wide and needed urgent attention. He explained that while companies were pushing technology forward at a much faster speed, academic institutions were not keeping up. "CII has identified that industry and academia are too far apart. They identified both a problem and an opportunity," he said, adding that firms working closely with educational institutes were beginning to see strong results. "We are trying to incentivise those who are performing well by presenting them with an award," he said. Earlier in the day at the same event, Hindustan Unilever's Head of R&D, Aniket Gandhi, told ANI that India must strengthen coordination among government, industry and academia to turn research intent into meaningful innovation.

INDIA EMERGES AS KEY WINNER AS GLOBAL TALENT MIGRATION DECLINES 8.5% YOY: BCG

Diary Times Desk : Global mobility of highly skilled professionals has recorded its first decline since 2020, dropping 8.5 per cent year-on-year -- a fall of about 220,000 cross-border career moves, according to a new report by Boston Consulting Group (BCG) titled "Global Talent Mobility Is Slowing and Shifting." The report added that the slowdown, driven by geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty and stricter migration policies in markets such as Canada and the UK, is reshaping global talent flows. Despite the downturn, India has emerged as one of the biggest gainers. The report notes a sharp rise in India's position across all tracked talent categories. India registered a 1.9 percentage-point increase in global AI talent share and a 1.4 percentage-point rise in STEM talent share.

LOANS TO GET CHEAPER, RBI TRIMS POLICY INTEREST RATE BY 25 BASIS POINTS TO 5.25%

Diary Times Desk : Shrugging off concerns over the depreciation of rupee, the RBI has cut interest rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent in a bid to further bolster economic growth, which rose to a six-quarter high of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter of the current financial year.

The development is expected to make advances, including housing, auto and commercial loans cheaper.

Announcing the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to cut the short-term lending rate or repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance. The rate cut comes on the back of the consumer price index (CPI) based headline retail inflation ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last three months. India's retail inflation dropped to a historic low of 0.25 per cent in October 2025, marking the lowest level since the Consumer Price Index (CPI) series was introduced. Besides, the Indian economy has clocked better-than-expected GDP growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter.



CLOUDFLARE INVESTIGATES OUTAGE THAT BROUGHT DOWN SITES INCLUDING ZOOM AND LINKEDIN

Diary Times Desk : Internet infrastructure company Cloudflare on Friday said it was investigating an outage that took place in the morning that brought down several global websites including LinkedIn, Zoom and others, the second such crash to affect the company in less than three weeks.

Cloudflare said the issue had been resolved, and that it was was "investigating issues with Cloudflare Dashboard and related APIs", or application programming interface that allow software systems to communicate with each other. Users on X also reported problems accessing the website. The Edinburgh airport had to shut down briefly on Friday morning. But the airport said the outage was a localised issue that was not related to the outage by Cloudflare.



In November, a Cloudflare outage affected users of everything from ChatGPT and the online game, "League of Legends", to the New Jersey Transit system. Last month Microsoft had to deploy a fix to address an outage of their Azure cloud portal that left users unable to access Office 365, Minecraft and other services.

RBI UNVEILS RS 1 LAKH CRORE OMO PURCHASES, USD 5 BN FOREX SWAP TO BOOST DECEMBER LIQUIDITY

Diary Times Desk : In a move aimed at easing liquidity pressures and stabilising financial conditions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday announced a series of liquidity-injecting operations scheduled for December 2025.

The central bank will conduct two Open Market Operation (OMO) purchase auctions of Government of India securities, each worth Rs 50,000 crore, on December 11 and December 18, bringing the total planned infusion through OMOs to Rs 1,00,000 crore.

Additionally, the RBI will undertake a USD/INR Buy/Sell Swap auction of USD 5 billion with a three-year tenor on December 16, 2025.

The Reserve Bank, in a release, stated that detailed operational guidelines will be issued separately and emphasised that it will continue to closely monitor liquidity and market conditions to ensure their orderly functioning. According to the release, the RBI will carry out the purchases through a multi-security auction using the multiple price method, and importantly, there is no security-wise notified amount, meaning the aggregate ceiling applies collectively.



SOLANA UNDER PRESSURE:
CAN THE MARKET MAINTAIN
SOL ABOVE \$140

Diary Times Desk : Solana has returned to the spotlight as shifting conditions in the crypto market push SOL into a vulnerable zone. During the ongoing correction, the asset is being pressured on several fronts, including the first wave of outflows from Solana exchange-traded funds, a decline in total value locked, and a high-profile security incident. Three blows to Solana The Solana market is going through its most serious stress test in months. For the first time since launch, U.S. Solana exchange-traded funds recorded net outflows estimated at \$8 million to \$8.2 million in a single day. The primary driver was the 21Shares Solana ETF (TSOL), which saw \$34 million in outflows. Other funds, including BSOL, GSOL, and FSOL, posted moderate inflows that partially offset the losses. Even so, institutional pressure has become noticeable, especially because ETF inflows had previously been a major source of support for Solana’s growth. On-chain activity has weakened as well. Active addresses declined by 6%, fees fell by 16%, and total value locked dropped 20% in November alone, down 32% from the September peak. The sharpest declines are evident across major protocols such as Jito, Jupiter, Raydium, and Sanctum. The combination of softer network demand and institutional outflows creates a negative fundamental backdrop that strongly influences current expectations for Solana’s price.

ENERGY ENGINEERING
TOOK CENTER STAGE ON
DAY-0 AT IIT MADRAS AND
IIT BHU

Diary Times Desk : Across India's top institutes, a powerful shift is underway. Young engineers are increasingly driven by a sense of responsible innovation, energy efficiency, and the pursuit of sustainable and equitable growth. Inspired by the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and India's ambitious commitments to clean energy, students today seek careers that align both purpose and engineering excellence. In this landscape, energy-tech becomes a natural calling, a space where impact is tangible, solutions shape communities.

INDO-FRENCH CSR EXCELLENCE CELEBRATED AT IFCCI'S 7TH
ANNUAL CSR CONCLAVE & AWARDS

Diary Times Desk : The 7th edition of the CSR Conclave and Awards, organised by the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI), was held on 2nd December at ITC Maurya, New Delhi, in the presence of Mr Damien Syed, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of France in India. The event celebrated the most impactful CSR initiatives executed by French and Indian companies and awarded the top projects across six distinct categories, highlighting the significant role played by IFCCI in promoting corporate engagement in the field of CSR, and connecting NGOs and CSR stakeholders. The annual CSR Conclave brought together over 120 CEOs, policymakers, CSR and Sustainability leaders, CSR foundations and NGOs from the Indo-French business community to share best practices while recognising the efforts of the most significant CSR projects. The theme of the Conclave this year, "Local Frameworks, Global Goals, Digital Pathways", reflects the growing convergence between India's pioneering CSR framework and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, creating opportunities to align domestic priorities with global sustainability imperatives. The discussions explored how the future of CSR lies in collaboration rather than competition, while reimagining CSR through the lenses of inclusive growth and global responsibility.



INDIA POISED TO LEAD THE NEXT BIG LEAP IN CLEAN MOBILITY WITH
ELECTRIC ROAD SYSTEMS (ERS)



Diary Times Desk : India's transport sector is entering a decisive new chapter with the release of Charging Ahead: Global Insights and India's Roadmap for Electric Road Systems (ERS)--a landmark futures report developed by the ITS India Forum in collaboration with the OMI Foundation, NATRAX, NHEV, global researchers, and industry partners.

At a time when the country is racing toward Viksit Bharat@2047, ERS emerges as a high-impact solution that can reshape freight movement, public transport, and national energy resilience. Unlike conventional EV pathways that rely on oversized batteries and extensive static charging networks, Electric Road Systems allow vehicles to charge while in motion--delivering unprecedented gains in efficiency, cost reduction, and sustainability.

Drawing insights from ten international pilots across Europe, the US, Israel, Japan, Korea, UAE, and Australia, the report presents a clear case for why India cannot afford to overlook ERS. Dynamic charging can reduce logistics costs by 5-7%, cut battery size requirements by nearly 50%, and improve energy efficiency by up to 10% compared to traditional BEVs. For a country where 70% of freight runs on diesel trucks, ERS has the potential to align electric trucks with diesel on payload, range, and uptime--without placing new strain on the grid. The report highlights India's strategic opportunity: ERS can lower national dependence on imported oil and critical minerals, accelerate renewable energy integration, and strengthen domestic manufacturing. As global supply chains shift and countries seek resilient, technology-sovereign ecosystems, ERS offers India a chance to lead rather than follow. The recommendations within Charging Ahead define a pragmatic yet ambitious pathway--technology-neutral pilots across urban logistics routes, high-density freight corridors, and controlled test environments such as NATRAX. The report emphasises strong PPP models, simplified regulatory pathways, structured grid integration, and standardisation frameworks that can help India validate ERS at scale.

**HIMACHAL PRADESH
VIDHAN SABHA PUTS
SECTION 118 AMENDMENT
BILL ON HOLD**

Diary Times Desk : The Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on Friday put on hold the amendment Bill seeking changes to Section 118 of the Himachal Pradesh Tenancy and Land Reforms Act, 1972. The Bill has now been referred to a Select Committee of the House for further examination. Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania announced the decision after accepting a request made by BJP MLA Randhir Sharma, which was supported by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

He said the Select Committee would include members from both the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. "The Select Committee, after discussion, will submit its report to the Vidhan Sabha in the budget session," the Speaker said.

The Revenue Minister Jagat Singh Negi will constitute the committee and issue the notification. The proposed amendment Bill, introduced by Negi on December 2, sought to simplify land transfer procedures to encourage private investment in the state. At present, Section 118 restricts the transfer of land to non-agriculturists through sale, gift, will, exchange, lease, mortgage with possession or creation of tenancy.

**SUKHU SAYS PROBE
UNDERWAY INTO 'HIMCARE
SCAM', CLAIMS SCHEME'S
ORIGINAL PURPOSE WAS
COMPROMISED**

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday told the Himachal Pradesh Assembly that his government would conduct a detailed investigation into alleged irregularities in the Himcare health scheme.

He was responding to a question jointly asked by BJP MLAs Vinod Kumar and Trilok Jamwal during the question hour.

Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur also intervened and alleged that the government was not serious about implementing this scheme in its true letter and spirit. However, the CM said that the expenditure made under this scheme in past years was currently being audited by the state's chief accountant general. Apart from this, a detailed investigation.

IN RARE SHOW OF UNITY, BJP, CONGRESS LEAD JOINT PROTEST AGAINST 'CHITTA' IN DHARAMSALA ASSEMBLY

Diary Times Desk : In a rare show of unity, the Congress Legislature Party led by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu and BJP legislators headed by Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur jointly staged a protest against the menace of chitta on the Himachal Pradesh Assembly premises on Friday.

Chief Minister Sukhu, Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri and LoP Jai Ram Thakur called for a collective effort across party lines to combat the growing drug crisis. "This is not a matter of politics. Lives are at risk, and we must work together," the Chief Minister said. He added that the government was preparing a comprehensive action plan to curb chitta, including holding gram sabha meetings in every panchayat and offering rewards to individuals who provide credible information on drug networks.



BJP MOUNTS FIERCE OFFENSIVE AS HIMACHAL'S SUKHU GOVT NEARS 3-YEAR MARK

Diary Times Desk : As the Congress government approaches the completion of its three-year tenure on December 11, the BJP on Thursday launched an aggressive political assault on Himachal Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, alleging “misrule, corruption and anti-people governance” over the past three years. The attack came during a protest rally in Dharamsala that drew thousands of party supporters and local residents. When Leader of Opposition and former Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur rose to address the gathering, the crowd greeted him with chants of “Hamara neta kaisa ho, Jai Ram Thakur jaisa ho.” Thakur wasted no time taking a pointed dig at Sukhu over the recent controversy involving a viral video in which schoolchildren greeted the Chief Minister with “Radhe Radhe”, prompting him to question the choice of greeting. Thakur claimed that the Chief Minister had “insulted Sanatan Dharma”, while also recalling Sukhu’s earlier remark about bringing Congress to power in a “97 per cent Hindu-dominated state”. Thakur accused the ruling Congress of alienating every section of society, saying people across the state had taken to the streets agains.

CM SUKHU INTERACTS WITH STUDENTS OF TONG-LEN SCHOOL IN DHARAMSALA

Diary Times Desk : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Friday morning visited Tong-Len School at Sarah in Dharamsala and interacted with the students, the release said.

According to the Himachal CMO, CM Sukhu also enquired about their interests and hobbies and motivated them to grow into responsible citizens and contribute meaningfully to the development of the nation and society.

Since its inception, Tong-Len has focused on improving the lives of slum communities by educating the younger generation. The Himachal CM said that the present government belongs to the people and was committed to safeguarding their rights and welfare.

The 'Mukhyamantri Sukh Aashray Sahayata Kosha' was established to ensure that orphan children receive opportunities for higher and professional education, with the government bearing the entire expenses. During his visit, he also offered floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

YOUR HOROSCOPE
06-12-2025

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.

Libro

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.

apricorn

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.

HARYANA RANKS 12TH
UNDER PM CARES FOR
CHILDREN;
MAHARASHTRA TOPS LIST

Diary Times Desk : The Nayab Singh Saini Government may be projecting strong implementation of pro-people Central schemes, but it has fallen behind in enrolling orphaned children under the PM Cares for Children Scheme, a flagship initiative aimed at providing comprehensive care and protection to children till the age of 23. Data presented by Savitri Thakur, Minister of State for Women and Child Development, in reply to an unstarred question by S Selvaganabathy in the Rajya Sabha, placed Haryana at the 12th spot among the 36 states and Union Territories. Haryana enrolled 22 children under PM Cares in the past three years – 16 in 2022, two in 2023 and four in 2024.

Maharashtra topped the list with 157 enrolments, followed by Tamil Nadu (103) and Madhya Pradesh (78). Haryana's performance has been mixed when compared to neighbouring states. Uttar Pradesh (62), Delhi (46) and Rajasthan (24) recorded higher enrolments, while Punjab (6), Himachal Pradesh (1) and Chandigarh (1) fared worse.

HARYANA: SPECIALIST
DOCTORS BREAK RANKS
WITH HCMSA, OPPOSE
STRIKE; SEEK SPECIAL
CADRE ROLLOUT

Diary Times Desk : Amid the Haryana Civil Medical Services Association's (HCMSA) call for a complete shutdown of health services on December 8 and 9 over major service-related issues, directly recruited postgraduate specialist doctors have now raised fresh concerns and distanced themselves from the protest. The HCMSA is demanding the stoppage of direct recruitment of Senior Medical Officers (SMOs) and notification of the modified Assured Career Progression (ACP) structure, but specialists say these demands conflict with their own long-pending issues. The directly recruited specialists clarified that they will not participate in the strike and will continue providing uninterrupted healthcare services across the state. They argue that several demands approved by the government in the past remain unimplemented, causing resentment among the cadre.

'RAIL ROKO' PROTEST IN PUNJAB: SEVERAL FARMERS DETAINED, RELEASED LATER

Diary Times Desk : Several farmers and their leaders were detained by police at many places in Punjab in view of their two-hour 'Rail roko' protest on Friday in support of various demands.

At many places, farmers were detained before they could squat on the rail tracks during the protest. However, they were released later.

The farmers are opposing the Centre's draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2025, terming it "anti-farmer" while contending that it would lead to privatisation and centralisation of the Indian power system.

Farmers' outfit Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had announced a statewide two-hour 'Rail roko' protest for Friday and called for a symbolic halt of train services from 1 pm to 3 pm at 26 locations in 19 of the 23 districts in the state.

As part of the call, the farmers held protests at multiple locations, though at several places they were detained by the police and not allowed to block the rail tracks.



WARRING WARNS AAP GOVT OF
'ANARCHY' OVER ALLEGED GANGSTER
PATRONAGE TO WIN ELECTIONS

Diary Times Desk : Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring warned the AAP government against promoting anarchy and bloodshed by patronising gangsters to win elections. He accused AAP of following a strategy of manipulation and coercion, citing former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia's 'saam, daam, dand, bhed' approach. Warring warned police officers turned AAP 'yesmen' they'd face consequences: "We will neither forget nor forgive." Addressing a press conference, he said AAP's reluctance to hold Zila Parishad and Block Samiti elections showed they feared defeat. Congress candidates faced intimidation and obstacles filing nominations, sparking fears their papers might be rejected during scrutiny due to AAP's grip on the election machinery. Regarding an alleged audio clip of SSP Patiala directing subordinates to block opposition candidates, Warring demanded investigation and action if true. He criticised police partiality, saying officers had "surrendered to AAP" and become "errand boys". Warring asserted accountability would follow a government change: "This must end, and we will end it."

UK SANCTIONS BRITISH SIKH
BUSINESSMAN, GROUP OVER PRO-
KHALISTAN TERRORISM IN INDIA

Diary Times Desk : The UK government has announced sanctions against a British Sikh businessman and a group associated with him in the first use of the country's 'Domestic Counter-Terrorism Regime' to disrupt funding for the pro-Khalistan militant group Babbar Khalsa.

Gurpreet Singh Rehal, linked with the Panjab Warriors sports investment firm, faces an asset freeze and director disqualification as he is suspected of belonging to organisations involved in terrorism in India, the UK's Treasury department said on Thursday.

Alongside, it also announced an asset freeze against "Babbar Akali Lehar" for promoting and supporting the same terrorist group. "We will not stand by while terrorists exploit Britain's financial system," said Lucy Rigby, Economic Secretary to the Treasury. "This landmark action shows we are prepared to use every tool at our disposal to choke off funding for terrorism – wherever it occurs and whoever is responsible."

PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB PROVINCE LIFTS BAN ON KITE FLYING DURING BASANT
FESTIVAL AFTER 20 YEARS



Diary Times Desk : Amid pressure from artists and civil society members, a ban on kite flying during the Basant festival has been lifted in Pakistan's Punjab province after 20 years. The decision by Maryam Nawaz evoked widespread excitement across cities and villages in the province.

Announcing the details of the decision made on Wednesday, Punjab's Minister for Information and Culture Azma Bokhari said on Thursday that there will, however, be several restrictions and fines for those violating new rules regarding the same. "After 20 years, the joy of Basant has finally returned to Punjab. But this time, it comes under strict safety regulations. No one will be allowed to break the law during the festival," Bokhari said in a statement. According to Dawn, on Thursday, the Lahore High Court was approached with a petition challenging the Punjab Government's decision to lift the ban. The petition was filed by Judicial Activism Panel (JAP), a self-described public interest-litigation group, through Advocate Azhar Siddique. The petition raised serious concerns over public safety, noting that several incidents involving kite-flying had resulted in deaths.

Celebrated towards the end of winter to mark the arrival of spring, the festival has been an occasion for community celebrations across the province – and kite-flying was an integral part of the festivities.

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.

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

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

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

It's probably just the beginning.

The evolution of drones

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

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

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



Australia's About To Find Out

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

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



Hilary Whiteman

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

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

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

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

From December 10, sites



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INFA

A Blue Schoolbag In A Mass Grave

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

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



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.



CHRISTIE’S 2025 HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Diary Times Desk :

Evoking the sound of sleigh bells and long, wintry rides across a snow-covered landscape, this elegant chair, with its matching ottoman, was designed by the Danish furniture-maker Børge Mogensen. It was created in 1953 for an exhibition in Fredericia, Denmark, and is one of only five known to exist.

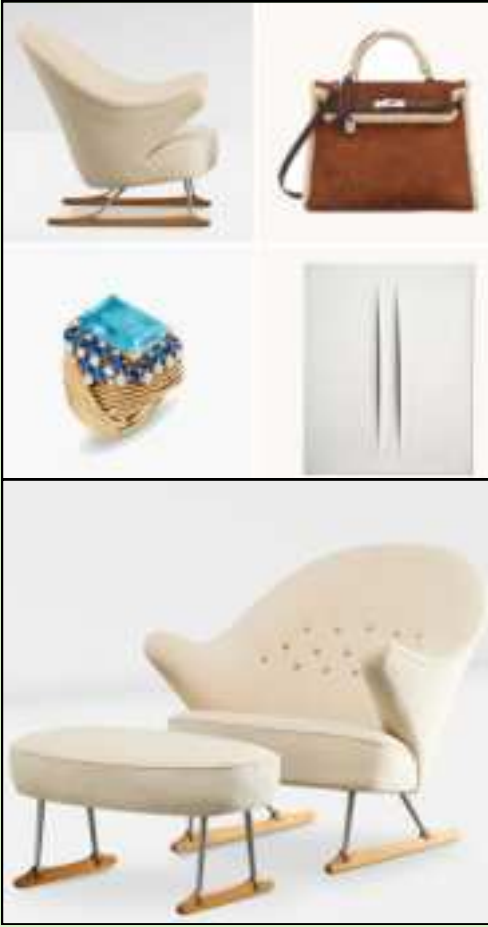
Mogensen was a mid-century modernist who favoured traditional crafts and natural materials. He is known for his egalitarian, stylish yet practical solutions to the economies of modern living, designing modular furniture that could be folded, slotted and compartmentalised. Whimsy was not usually his metier, making this ‘Sleigh chair’ an unexpected delight.

This diamond triple clip brooch from 1935 takes the form of two wild roses, each set throughout with round-, baguette- and cushion-shaped diamonds. The two single flower clips can be joined together to form one flowerhead cluster brooch if preferred. Wear with a black cocktail dress for maximum impact.

Each holiday season, Rolex used to a run a festive advertisement – a tradition that came to an end in the 1970s. The final ad ran with the tagline: ‘A Rolex for Christmas certainly raises the spirits.’

Around the same time, the company released what has gone on to become one of its most sought-after tool watches: the Daytona reference 6263. This particular model, from 1974, has several minuscule, but highly desirable, distinguishing features: tiny Greek ‘sigma’ letters appearing at six o’clock, which indicate that the baton numerals and hands are crafted from 18k white gold; the lettering ‘T SWISS T’, indicating that tritium is used in the glow-in-the-dark dial; and a black acrylic bezel and screw-down pushers, giving the watch a particularly rugged appearance. In the summer of 2000, the renowned ink painter Liu Kuo-Sung was in Tibet to give a lecture.

The Taipei-based artist was fast approaching his 70th birthday, but age didn’t prevent him from embarking on a trek to Everest Base Camp during the same trip. After several days’ ascent, Liu experienced the spectacular mountain scenery revealing itself before him. Sunlight illuminated certain peaks; clouds shrouded others. The overall effect was a sweeping vista that enraptured him.



A GUIDE TO THE TOP LUXURY JEWELLERY BRANDS

Diary Times Desk :

In 1895 Estelle Arpels, the daughter of a dealer in precious stones, married Alfred Van Cleef, the son of a diamond cutter. 11 years later, Alfred and his brother-in law Charles Arpels established the first Van Cleef & Arpels boutique at 22 Place Vendôme, where the jewellery house remains today. One of the maison’s earliest innovations came in 1933 with its patented ‘Mystery Set’ technique, where the mounting of the stones is hidden behind the calibré-cut surface of the jewel, so no prongs are visible.

Later in the decade, Van Cleef & Arpels debuted its ‘Passe-Partout’ necklace, which could convert into a choker, bracelet or two brooches. Subsequent decades saw the release of the ‘Ballerina’ brooch (1940), the ‘Zip’ necklace (1951) and the four-leaf clover ‘Alhambra’ motif (1968), inspired by Moorish architecture.

While Cartier was founded in Paris in 1847 by Louis-François Cartier, it was his son Alfred’s children – Louis, Pierre and Jacques – who’d put the house on the international map. Amongst the house’s most desirable creations are its 1920s and 1930s Art Deco designs, especially those inspired by Asia. In 1911 Jacques Cartier visited India, where he acquired rubies, sapphires and emeralds that would form Cartier’s vibrant ‘Tutti Frutti’ jewels.

In 1924, Cartier debuted its three-ring, tri-colour ‘Trinity’ design, conceived by Jean Cocteau, Louis Cartier’s close friend, while Cartier’s promotion of Jeanne Toussaint as director of high jewellery in 1933 saw the proliferation of the ‘Panthère’ and other ‘Great Cat’ designs. After joining Cartier in 1969, Aldo Cipullo conceived two of the most iconic Cartier designs: the ‘Love’ and ‘Juste un Clou’ bracelets, which have since expanded into other forms of jewellery. Bulgari – or BVLGARI (the ‘V’ references the classical Latin alphabet) – was founded by Sotirio Bulgari, who was born in 1857 in Greece and came from a family of silversmiths. In 1884 he opened his first shop in Rome. Upon his death in 1932, his sons Giorgio and Costantino took over the business, where they established the house’s bold-gold signature style, inspired by Greek and Roman classicism. In the 1930s Bulgari introduced the gem-centric ‘Trombino’ ring, while in the 1940s, the solder-free coiled ‘Tubogas’ design paved the way for the first ‘Serpenti’ bracelet-watch in 1948. The articulated snake designs as well as the ‘Monete’ coin-set creations of the 1980s comprise some of Bulgari’s most popular pieces. The house is also known for their use of coloured gemstones, as illustrated by the ‘Giardinetto’ brooches, which appeared during the early 1960s.



BARCELONA IDENTIFY 100 MEMBERS ILLEGALLY RESELLING TICKETS FOR EINTRACHT FRANKFURT MATCH



Diary Times Desk : Barcelona are gearing up for a big game at Spotify Camp Nou next week as they take on Eintracht Frankfurt. This game will mark the first time the Champions League returns to the iconic stadium after more than two and a half years. However, amidst the excitement of the European return, the club has had to crack down on security to protect the atmosphere. As reported by SPORT, Barcelona have identified approximately 100 members (socios) involved in the illegal resale of tickets for Tuesday's match. These cases were caught through daily analysis of ticket sales. The details have been passed to the Disciplinary Committee, which will now decide on the sanctions for each member found to be selling their seat to rival fans. Barcelona, after all, will be well aware of the fiasco of 2022, when Eintracht Frankfurt visited the stadium in numbers. During that Europa League match, several thousand Eintracht Frankfurt fans took over the stands, almost making Camp Nou look like an away stadium.

BARCELONA CLOSELY TRACKING 20-YEAR-OLD CROATIAN MIDFIELD PRODIGY

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona remain on the lookout for exciting young talents across the globe, with their scouts always on alert for promising footballers with immense potential.

It has led to the Catalans recently showing an interest in Santos FC teenage left-back Joao Victor de Sousa, while they have also taken a liking to young wingers in the Bundesliga, such as Said El Mala and Antonio Nusa.

Now, it seems like Barcelona's search for exciting jewels has taken them to Croatia. Indeed, according to reports in Croatia, as relayed by SPORT, Barcelona scouts have travelled to watch Slaven Koprivnica in today's match against HNK Gorica.

The aim is to follow the progress of midfielder Adriano Jugusic, a player who has drawn the attention of many clubs across Europe.

As per the report, the Blaugrana already have strong reports on the 20-year-old left-footed midfielder, who has surprised observers with his development in the Croatian league and is already a U-21 international.

BARCELONA FORWARD HAILED AS 'ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD' BY REAL BETIS COACH AHEAD OF LA LIGA CLASH

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona will lock horns with Real Betis on Saturday, hoping to stretch their lead at the top of the La Liga standings.

Currently with a one-point lead over arch-rivals Real Madrid, Hansi Flick & co. will be eager to get another victory tomorrow, but it will not be easy considering that Betis are currently on an eight-game unbeaten run in all competitions.

However, speaking to the media ahead of the game, Los Verdiblancos manager Manuel Pellegrini stated that, irrespective of their form, it will be difficult to get a positive result against Barça. "It will be a very difficult match; Barcelona are in good form. But so are we, we're playing at home, and the three points would be important," he said. "We have to play a very complete game. Barcelona attack constantly, so we can't make defensive mistakes because they have a lot of technical quality. With good offensive transitions, we can hurt them," Pellegrini added. The South American tactician had great words of praise for Barcelona wonderkid Lamine Yamal, as he said: "He is undoubtedly one of the best in the world, he proves it week after week."

BARCELONA DEFENSIVE TARGET PRIORITISES REAL MADRID MOVE IN THE SUMMER – REPORT

Diary Times Desk : Borussia Dortmund defender Nico Schlotterbeck has emerged as one of the main targets for FC Barcelona for the summer of 2026.

The 26-year-old appears set to leave the Black and Yellows in the summer, given that his contract expires in 2027 and he has no plans of signing a new one.

All of Dortmund's attempts to renew his contract have failed so far, and the club will have to make a choice between cashing in on him next year or losing him for free in 2027. Barcelona have positioned themselves as a suitor for the German international, as they are keen on adding a left-footed centre-back to fill the void left by Inigo Martinez's exit last summer. However, in a concerning development for Barcelona, Sky Sports Germany (via SPORT) reports that Schlotterbeck might be leaning towards a move to Real Madrid. The German international would be willing to leave the Bundesliga in order to try his luck in La Liga, but his current choice would be Real Madrid, with preliminary contacts already taking place. Real Madrid, however, are also considering other options and are holding talks on several fronts.



BARCELONA DELIGHTED WITH LOANEE'S PERFORMANCES WITH TURNING POINT COMING VS REAL MADRID

Diary Times Desk : Hector Fort was one of many players to leave Barcelona last summer in search of more prominence elsewhere.

The young right-back joined Elche on a season-long loan deal, as Barcelona wanted him to gain more game time at the highest level of football. So far, the move appears to be working out quite well for Fort, who has emerged as a key performer for Elche this season. According to SPORT, Barcelona are quite impressed by the performances of Fort, who is flourishing under the leadership of Eder Sarabia.

The youngster has already racked up nine competitive appearances for the club and most recently impressed against Real Madrid.

Deploying as a right wing-back, Fort had a majestic game against Los Blancos, a game in which he was able to neutralise the threat of Alvaro Carreras.

BARCELONA PRESIDENT PLEASED WITH THE DIRECTION TEAM IS HEADING IN – 'WE ARE HAPPY WHEN WE WIN PLAYING WELL'

Diary Times Desk : Joan Laporta was present at the customary Christmas lunch with journalists, this time at the Spotify Camp Nou premises.

During his address, the Barcelona president talked about Deco's work at the club as well as the success of La Masia.

First and foremost, Laporta did not forget to gloat about Barcelona's return to Spotify Camp Nou and how significant it could be for the club.

"We're back home, and we can get a sense of what this Spotify Camp Nou will look like when it's finished," he said (h/t Mundo Deportivo).

Despite being presented with an excellent opportunity to talk about his candidature in next year's Barcelona president election, Laporta took the moment to praise the support staff that made the return to Camp Nou possible.

"We are here because we were elected to recover the club's finances, its prestige, and to have a new stadium," he said.

"We have already returned home with 45,000 spectators. We hope to have 62,000 as soon as possible. It was a collective dream, and now it is a reality," he added.