

NEWS IN BRIEF

SURAT MAN FALLS FROM 10TH FLOOR IN SLEEP, RESCUED AFTER GETTING STUCK ON 8TH-FLOOR WINDOW

Diary Times Desk : A 57-year-old man sleeping on the window of his 10th-floor flat in Surat slipped and miraculously survived after getting stuck in the metal grill installed outside a window on the 8th floor on Thursday, officials said.

Nitin Adiya remained suspended upside down in agony for an hour before being rescued, the fire official said. Dramatic videos of his rescue have gone viral on social media.

According to fire department officials, Adiya was sleeping near a window of his flat at Times Galaxy building in Surat's Jahangirabad area when he accidentally fell off.

His seemingly fatal fall was arrested after Adiya got stuck in the metal grill outside a window two floors below, they said.

After receiving an emergency call around 8 am, fire officials from Jahangirpur, Palanpur and Adajan rushed to the spot and launched a rescue operation.

3 MEMBERS OF PUNJAB'S BHUDAN FAMILY DIE BY SUICIDE, VIDEO

ACCUSES 10 PEOPLE

Diary Times Desk : A 33-year-old widow, her mother, and her 9-year-old son died by suicide in Bhudan village on Tuesday night.

The deceased were Inderpal Kaur, her mother Hardeep Kaur, and her son Jordan Singh, who later died in hospital after being found unconscious. Before the incident, the family recorded a video accusing at least 10 individuals, including Inderpal's mother-in-law, of harassment. The video was sent to a relative, who alerted the police.

An FIR has been registered against Charanjit Kaur and nine others for allegedly abetting the family to commit suicide. The reasons behind the alleged abetment are still under investigation. According to relatives, Inderpal had lost her husband, Pawandeep Singh, in an accident seven years ago. She had been living with her mother, Hardeep Kaur, since then.

PM MODI NEWS

PM MODI INAUGURATES RASHTRIYA PRERNA STHAL ON ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE'S 101ST BIRTH ANNIVERSARY IN LUCKNOW



Diary Times Desk : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday inaugurated the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal, a landmark national memorial and complex dedicated to celebrating the life and ideals of Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The inauguration coincides with the 101st birth anniversary of the former prime minister. PM Modi was accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and other senior leaders.

The sprawling complex also features 65-foot-high bronze statues of BJP ideologues Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, alongside Vajpayee.

A state-of-the-art museum, designed in a lotus-shaped structure and spread over 98,000 square feet, allows visitors to explore the contributions of these leaders to nation-building. After the inauguration, the prime minister, along with other leaders, visited the museum housed within the complex. PM Modi viewed the displays dedicated to the lives and contributions of Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya.

According to an official statement, the Rashtriya Prerna Sthal, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 230 crore over 65 acres, is envisaged as a permanent national asset promoting leadership values, national service, cultural consciousness, and public inspiration.

The memorial, described as an "inspirational complex of enduring national significance", is expected to serve as a source of motivation for present and future generations, reflecting the pivotal role of Vajpayee, Mookerjee, and Upadhyaya in shaping India's political thought and public life.

UNNAO RAPE CASE

UNNAO RAPE CASE: PETITION IN SUPREME COURT CHALLENGES SUSPENSION OF KULDEEP SENGAR'S SENTENCE



Diary Times Desk : Amid uproar over the Delhi High Court's order for suspension of sentence and grant of bail to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the High Court's order.

Filed by advocates Anjale Patel and Pooja Shilpkar, the petition urged the top court to stay the December 23 order of the High Court, contending that the High Court passed the order without considering that the trial court had said that Sengar must remain in jail for the rest of his natural life.

The CBI has also said that it will challenge before the Supreme Court the suspension of life sentence and the bail granted to Sengar in the case.

The petitioners said the High Court has committed a grave error in law as well as on facts in granting bail/suspension of sentence to Sengar despite his serious criminal antecedents and his established involvement in the heinous offences of rape. "The High Court failed to appreciate the material evidence relied upon by the prosecution which clearly demonstrates the barbarity and brutality of the accused, coupled with his demonstrated muscle power, financial influence and criminal propensity, as evidenced from the fact that even while the victim's father.



BAN ON WOMEN USING SMARTPHONES IN RAJASTHAN WITHDRAWN; ELDERS SAY PROHIBITION KEPT CHILDREN IN MIND

Diary Times Desk : The village elders in Rajasthan's Jalor district have withdrawn the ban imposed on women using smartphones after the decision faced opposition in several places. A meeting of the panchas (village elders) was convened on Thursday in Gazipur village, where they unanimously decided to withdraw the ban. They said the decision kept children in mind, but it was "misunderstood".

In a meeting of the Chaudhary community of Sundhamata Patti on December 21 in Gazipur village, the daughters and daughters-in-law of 15 villages were banned from using smartphones, starting January 26.

The village elders and community members also decided that they can keep keypad (feature) phones for making calls. According to the order pronounced by a member, Himmaram, on December 21, if school-going girls use a mobile phone for studies, they may use it only inside their homes. They will not be permitted to carry mobile phones to wedding ceremonies, social functions, or to a neighbour's house, it said. Another member, Natharam Chaudhary, said that on December 21, the community had a program at Sunda Mata. The women there had informed us that their children, after returning from school, immediately start using smartphones, he said. They neither eat nor study and spend the entire day watching videos, which has adverse effects on their brain and eyesight, Choudhary said. The ban was imposed following the suggestions that women should not use smartphones, he said, adding that no one was bound to follow the decision.

TOP MAOIST LEADER GANESH UIKE, WHO CARRIED RS 1.1 CRORE BOUNTY, 5 OTHERS KILLED IN GUNFIGHTS IN ODISHA



Diary Times Desk : Top Maoist leader Ganesh Uike, who carried a bounty of Rs 1.1 crore on his head, was among six red rebels killed in gun battles with security forces in Odisha's Kandhamal district, police said on Thursday.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah called it a "major breakthrough", while Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi described it as a "remarkable success" to build a Naxal-free India. CPI(Maoist) central committee member Uike was the chief of the banned outfit in Odisha, Sanjeeb Panda, an ADG rank officer heading anti-Naxal operations in the state, said. Two Maoists from Chhattisgarh were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Gumma forest in the Belghar police station area on Wednesday night. Fresh gun battles took place in a forest in the Chakrapur police station area on Thursday morning, in which four other Maoists, including Uike, were killed, he said. "Four Maoists were killed in the gunfight. One of them was identified as 69-year-old Ganesh Uike, who is also known by his aliases Pakka Hanumant, Rajesh Tiwari, Chamru and Rupa. He was a native of Pullemala village under Chendur mandal in Telangana's Nalgonda district," Panda said.

AAP LEADERS SAURABH BHARADWAJ, SANJEEV JHA AND ADIL AHMAD BOOKED FOR 'MOCKING' SANTA CLAUS



Diary Times Desk : The Delhi Police has booked AAP Delhi unit chief Saurabh Bharadwaj, general secretary Adil Ahmad, and MLA Sanjeev Jha for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of Christian community, officials said on Thursday.

The FIR was registered at the Connaught Place police station under Sections 299, 302, and 3(5) of the BNS after a complaint was submitted by advocate Khushboo George who alleged that the three leaders deliberately and maliciously committed acts intended to outrage religious feelings, along with alleged violation of the reasonable restrictions on free speech under Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

According to the complaint, on December 17 and 18, the accused uploaded videos on their official social media handles depicting a political skit performed in public at Connaught Place. The videos allegedly show individuals, dressed as Santa Claus, being portrayed in a derogatory and mocking manner. The characters are seen fainting and collapsing on the street, purportedly being used as props for political messaging, the FIR read. "Santa Claus is a revered religious and cultural icon for Christians worldwide, representing the legacy of Saint Nicholas and the Christmas festival. The videos allegedly depict mock CPR being performed and ridicule directed at the icon, which, the complaint claims, amounts to a deliberate attempt to insult the Christian faith during the final days of Advent," it added.

SHIVAKUMAR MEETS KHARGE, LEADS TO SPECULATIONS LINKING IT TO CM CHANGE ISSUE



Diary Times Desk : Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence here, leading to speculations linking it to the ongoing power tussle in the state for the CM post.

However, speaking to reporters after the meeting, Shivakumar said he did not discuss anything political and has only shared his thoughts with the Congress president, as a state unit chief, regarding the law enacted by the Centre replacing MCNREGA, ahead of the Congress Working Committee meeting on December 27. He said he has not discussed any other issue with Kharge. "There is no need to do it, I will not do it, there is no such thing for now. Siddaramiah and I have said that we will work abiding by the high command's decision, and we are committed to it." Responding to a question on his statement that he will remain a party worker, Shivakumar said, what he meant was being a lifetime member of the party and serving the organisation, irrespective of the post or the position he holds.

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4 OF FAMILY FOUND DEAD IN MAHARASHTRA'S NANDED IN SUSPECTED MASS SUICIDE

Diary Times Desk : A farmer, his wife and their two sons were found dead in two different locations in Maharashtra's Nanded district on Thursday morning, in what police suspect to be a mass suicide, an official said.

Around 8 am, the bodies of Ramesh Sonaji Lakhe (51) and his wife Radhabai Lakhe (45) were discovered on a cot in their home at Jawala Murar village in Mudkhed tehsil, he said. The bodies of their sons, Umesh (25) and Bajrang (23), were subsequently found on nearby railway lines. It appears they jumped in front of a speeding train, the official said. Police inspector Dattatray Manthale told reporters, "The parents were found dead in their house, while the sons took their lives on the railway tracks. We have asked a Forensic Science Laboratory team to collect evidence. The truth will come out only after a thorough technical investigation and autopsy."

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UNNAO RAPE CASE: PETITION IN SUPREME COURT CHALLENGES SUSPENSION OF KULDEEP SENGAR'S SENTENCE

Diary Times Desk : Amid uproar over the Delhi High Court's order for suspension of sentence and grant of bail to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case, a petition has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the High Court's order. Filed by advocates Anjale Patel and Pooja Shilpkar, the petition urged the top court to stay the December 23 order of the High Court, contending that the High Court passed the order without considering that the trial court had said that Sengar must remain in jail for the rest of his natural life. The CBI has also said that it will challenge before the Supreme Court the suspension of life sentence and the bail granted to Sengar in the case. The petitioners said the High Court has committed a grave error in law as well as on facts in granting bail/suspension of sentence to Sengar despite his serious criminal antecedents and his established involvement in the heinous offences of rape. "The High Court failed to appreciate the material evidence relied upon by the prosecution which clearly demonstrates the barbarity and brutality of the accused, coupled with his demonstrated muscle power, financial influence and criminal propensity, as evidenced from the fact that even while the victim's father was under judicial custody, the accused orchestrated.

FLAMES ENGULFED BUS INVOLVED IN KARNATAKA ACCIDENT AS PEOPLE WATCHED FROM A DISTANCE

Diary Times Desk : The luxury sleeper bus involved in the Chitradurga accident that claimed at least five lives was completely engulfed in flames, with thick plumes of black smoke billowing into the air, while people watched from a distance, immediately after the accident, visuals from the spot show. The visuals of PTI Videos from the spot show massive flames engulfing the bus that stood motionless as fire spread through the windows and roof, lighting up the surroundings amid dense smoke before the vehicle was completely gutted. People were also seen recording visuals of the accident. The bus, carrying 32 passengers and travelling to Gokarna from Bengaluru, was gutted in the collision, with most of the victims burnt alive in the vehicle, according to police officials. The charred remains of the bus were seen lying across the highway, with the roof caved in and metal frames twisted. The visuals also show that the bodies of the deceased were being removed from the bus. The vehicle was reduced to what appeared like a skeletal structure, with burnt debris scattered across the road as police personnel.

CJI SURYA KANT, SC JUDGES TO ATTEND TWO-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MEDIATION IN GOA ON DEC 26-27

Diary Times Desk : The Bar Council of India (BCI), BCI Trust and India International University of Legal Education and Research (IIULER), Goa, are organising a two-day national conference and symposium on "Mediation: How Far Significant in the Present-Day Context" commencing on Friday at the IIULER campus, Goa. Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and several Supreme Court judges are among those scheduled to attend the conference being held on December 26-27, the BCI said. The deliberations will focus on the Mediation Act, 2023, institutionalisation of mediation, ethical standards and best practices, court-annexed and pre-litigation mediation, technology-enabled dispute resolution, capacity building, and international experiences, it said. The symposium will have technical sessions, plenary discussions, policy roundtables and specialised mediation training programme. CJI Kant will lead an approximately 2-kilometre-long 'Mediation Awareness Walk' in Panaji on December 26 to promote mediation as a people-centric.

INDIGO CANCELS 67 FLIGHTS FROM MULTIPLE AIRPORTS DUE TO BAD WEATHER, OPERATIONAL ISSUES



Diary Times Desk : Domestic carrier IndiGo on Thursday cancelled 67 flights from multiple airports due to "forecasted" bad weather and operational reasons, according to the airline's website. Of the 67 cancelled flights, only four were for operational reasons, and the rest were due to "forecasted" bad weather at various airports, including Agartala, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Varanasi, Bengaluru, among others, as per the website. Aviation regulator DGCA has announced the period between December 10 and February 10 next year as the official fog window this winter. As part of the DGCA fog operations (CAT-IIIB) norms, airlines have to mandatorily roster pilots who are trained to operate in low-visibility conditions, as well as deploy a CAT-IIIB-compliant aircraft fleet for such operations. Category-III is an advanced navigation system that empowers an aircraft to land under foggy conditions.

AADHAAR, PAN CARD COPIES OF JOB ASPIRANTS MISUSED FOR FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS IN THANE

Diary Times Desk : Police in Maharashtra's Thane district have launched a probe into alleged misuse of identity documents for financial transactions worth Rs 35 crore, police said on Thursday. Over the last one and a half years, accused Salma Sayyed and her associates collected Aadhaar, PAN, photographs and other identity documents of job aspirants by promising them well-paid employment opportunities, an official said. "These documents were later misused by forging signatures and creating firms and bank accounts without the knowledge of the victims," he said. A company named 'Jaljyoti Enterprises' was fraudulently registered in one man's name without his knowledge, and current accounts were opened. Financial transactions worth about Rs 35 crore were carried out through these bank accounts, he said. The 27-year-old resident of the Ambernath area approached the police after learning about the misuse of his identity documents.

40 RESCUED AS FIRE BREAKS OUT AT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN MUMBAI

Diary Times Desk : Nearly 40 people were rescued after a fire broke out at a 23-storey residential building in Mumbai's Andheri West area on Thursday morning, officials said.

Nobody was injured in the fire that started around 10 am at Sorrento Tower near Country Club on Veera Desai Road, they said. A civic official said 30-40 people were rescued from the 16th-floor refuge area through the staircase, while three others, including a woman, were moved to safety from a flat on the 15th floor using breathing apparatus.

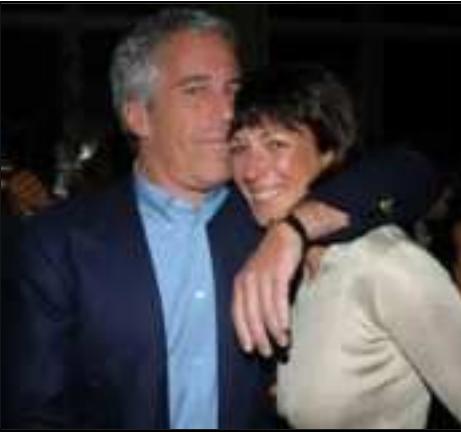
The fire affected the wiring and other components in the electrical shaft between the 10th and 21st floors, routers, shoe racks and wooden furniture near the duct on various floors, he said. The fire brigade deployed at least four fire engines and other equipment and put out the fire at 11.37 am, the official said. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained, he added.

EYEWITNESSES RECALL PANIC, ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE PEOPLE AS FIRE ENGULFED BUS IN KARNATAKA AFTER ACCIDENT

Diary Times Desk : "There was fire all around, and the door could not be opened," a survivor of Thursday's bus accident near here said, describing the moments after the vehicle caught fire following a collision. Aditya recalled the scenes of panic as flames engulfed the vehicle and the doors could not be opened, following the collision that claimed at least five lives. "The impact of the accident was such that I fell down, and within minutes, fire started spreading rapidly, with people screaming for help. "We broke the glass and tried to escape. People were screaming. Some tried to save others, but the fire was spreading rapidly, making rescue difficult," Aditya, who survived the accident, told reporters here. The bus with 32 occupants was on its way to Gokarna from Bengaluru and the tanker truck that was coming on the other side of the road jumped the median and rammed the bus. A person claiming to be an eyewitness recalled on how the truck driver allegedly lost control and hit the bus. "The truck driver lost control, probably because he was drowsy. Two buses were coming from the opposite direction.



'CHRISTMAS EVE NEWS DUMP': MILLION MORE EPSTEIN FILES FOUND, SPARK COVER-UP CLAIMS



Diary Times Desk : The Justice Department said on Wednesday that it may need a "few more weeks" to release all of its records on the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein after suddenly discovering more than a million potentially relevant documents, further delaying compliance with last Friday's congressionally mandated deadline.

The Christmas Eve announcement came hours after a dozen US senators called on the Justice Department's watchdog to examine its failure to meet the deadline. The group, 11 Democrats and a Republican, told Acting Inspector General Don Berthiaume in a letter that victims "deserve full disclosure" and the "peace of mind" of an independent audit.

The Justice Department said in a social media post that federal prosecutors in Manhattan and the FBI "have uncovered over a million more documents" that could be related to the Epstein case — a stunning 11th-hour development after department officials suggested months ago that they had undertaken a comprehensive review that accounted for the vast universe of Epstein-related materials.

In March, Attorney General Pam Bondi told Fox News that a "truckload of evidence" had been produced after she ordered the FBI to "deliver the full and complete Epstein files to my office." She issued the directive after saying she learned from an unidentified source that the FBI in New York was "in possession of thousands of pages of documents."

'I HAVE A PLAN FOR MY COUNTRY': BNP'S TARIQUE RAHMAN IN HOMECOMING SPEECH AMID FRESH WAVE OF UNREST

Diary Times Desk : Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) acting chairman Tarique Rahman on Thursday called on countrymen to join hands to maintain law and order, in his first address to party supporters hours after his arrival in Dhaka after a gap of 17 years. "Whatever political party we belong to, whatever religion we believe in, whether we are non-partisan individuals — all must join hands to maintain law and order," he told thousands of party supporters gathered at the July 36 Expressway in the capital, where he went straight after arriving at the airport. Rahman's call for maintaining law and order came amid a fresh wave of unrest and political instability gripping Bangladesh following the killing of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi, who was a prominent face in last year's mass protests that forced the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government. Rahman, the 60-year-old son of ailing former prime minister Khaleda Zia, has emerged as a leading contender for prime ministership in the polls. Referring to a popular quote from US civil rights activist Martin Luther King "I have a dream", Rahman said, "I have a plan for the people of my country and for my country," state-owned Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha reported.

TARIQUE RAHMAN'S GRAND 'BULLETPROOF' ENTRY IN DHAKA AS HE RECEIVES MASSIVE RECEPTION



Diary Times Desk : Following his grand reception on the 300-foot road after he arrived in Bangladesh on Thursday, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, who has been in exile for 17 years, expressed gratitude to supporters, who were gathered in hundreds of thousands to welcome the leader in the country. Rahman, who landed in Bangladesh earlier today, was received by a massive public reception, with party leaders and activists gathered along the route of the road. After his reception, Rahman thanked people from across the country for turning out in large numbers, acknowledging the support and prayers in a post on Facebook stating, "Gratitude to everyone." Amid tight security arrangements, thousands of BNP supporters lined along key roads, including the area near Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport and the 300 Feet Road, to welcome the party's acting chief aboard a bus adorned in the party's colours.

HELICOPTER ON RESCUE MISSION CRASHES ON TANZANIA'S MOUNT KILIMANJARO, KILLING ALL 5 ON BOARD

Diary Times Desk : Five people died after a helicopter crashed on Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania. The accident on Wednesday evening happened on one of the most popular tourist climbing routes, in what police said was a rescue mission to pick up patients on the mountain. Two foreigners, who police said had been picked up in a medical evacuation, were among those killed. A local doctor, a tour guide and a pilot were also killed in the crash. The accident happened between the mountain's Barafu Camp and Kibo Summit at an altitude of more than 4,000 metres (13,100 feet). Kilimanjaro regional police commander Simon Maigwa told journalists the aircraft belonged to the Kilimanjaro Aviation company, which conducts medical evacuation services, among others. The company is yet to comment on the accident. Police said more information would be provided later.



HEAVY RAINS DRENCH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, SPAWN FLASH FLOODING, MUD FLOWS

Diary Times Desk : Torrential rains unleashed widespread flash flooding and mud flows across Southern California on Wednesday, as authorities warned motorists to stay off roads while urging residents in flood zones to evacuate or shelter in place. In the rain-soaked mountain resort of Wrightwood, east of Los Angeles, emergency crews spent much of the day answering dozens of rescue calls and pulling drivers to safety from submerged vehicles, San Bernardino County Fire Department spokesperson Christopher Prater said. No casualties were reported as of Wednesday night, according to Prater. Aerial video footage posted online by the fire department showed rivers of mud coursing through inundated cabin neighbourhoods. Downpours measuring an inch (2.54 cm) or more of rain an hour in some areas were spawned by the region's latest atmospheric storm, a vast airborne current of dense moisture siphoned from the Pacific and swept inland over the greater Los Angeles area.

BLAST AT MOSQUE IN NIGERIA KILLS 5, INJURES 35 IN APPARENT SUICIDE ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : Five people have been killed in Nigeria's northeastern Maiduguri after a bomb exploded during prayer at a mosque on Wednesday night, a police statement said.

Police said 35 people were injured in the attack which, they said, is likely a suicide attack. "Preliminary investigations suggest that the incident may have been a suicide bombing, based on the recovery of fragments of a suspected suicide vest and witness statements recorded, while investigations are ongoing to establish the exact cause and circumstances," Nahum Doso, spokesperson for Borno state police command, said in the statement. Doso said police were conducting a sweep of the area in search of secondary devices. The Christmas Eve attack is the latest in a series of attacks in Nigeria's troubled northern region, where the country is battling multiple armed groups, including Boko Haram and its splinter group, Islamic State West Africa Province, among others. Several thousand people have been killed, with millions displaced from their homes since 2009, according to the United Nations. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but the use of suicide bombers has been heavily attributed to Boko Haram, the Islamic militant group that has previously claimed responsibility for many such attacks across the northeastern region.

KING CHARLES III PICKS WESTMINSTER ABBEY AS SITE OF HIS CHRISTMAS DAY BROADCAST

Diary Times Desk : King Charles III has chosen Westminster Abbey as the site of his Christmas Day speech on Thursday, reflecting the idea of pilgrimage that is expected to be a theme of the annual address to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth.

The central London landmark, known for the lavish coronations and royal weddings it has hosted for more than 1,000 years, is also the focus of an annual pilgrimage to the tomb of Edward the Confessor, which lies at the heart of the church. Edward, a monk-like monarch, was canonized as a saint in 1161.

The monarch's annual holiday message is watched by millions of people in the UK and across the Commonwealth, a voluntary association of 56 independent nations, most of which have historic ties to Britain. The prerecorded speech is broadcast at 3 pm (1500 GMT), when many families are enjoying their traditional Christmas lunch.

The speech is one of the rare occasions when Charles, 77, is able to voice his own views and doesn't seek guidance from the government. It usually has a strong religious framework, reflects current issues and sometimes draws on the monarch's personal experiences. This year's address comes just two weeks after Charles made a deeply personal television appearance in which he said "good news" from his doctors meant that he would be able to reduce his treatment for cancer in the new year.



INDIA-BORN PHYSICIAN APPOINTED TO STATE NUTRITION ADVISORY PANEL

Diary Times Desk : Indian-origin physician Padmaja Patel has been appointed to the Texas Nutrition Advisory Committee by Governor Greg Abbott, according to a press release. Midland-based physician, Patel, will serve on the committee through September 1, 2029. The panel advises the state on diet and nutrition and examines the role of food in preventing and managing chronic diseases. Members are appointed by the governor for staggered terms and represent a range of medical and public health disciplines, the statement said. The appointment was part of a broader slate of selections announced by the governor's office. Patel joins Cheryl Sew Hoy, Jaclyn Albin and Kathleen Davis, who were also appointed to terms ending in 2029. Ann Shippy, Commissioner Sid Miller and Natalie Bachynsky.

NORAD TRACKS SANTA'S YULETIDE SLEIGH RIDE FOR 70TH YEAR

Diary Times Desk : Santa Claus drove his reindeer-powered sleigh over rooftops around the world on Wednesday, delivering gifts to millions of children in a magic Christmas Eve ritual that North American air defence officials say they began tracking 70 years ago. Still, despite its devotion to a tradition dating back to the Cold War era of 1955, the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, possesses limited intelligence about the direction that Santa will take in any given year. Santa is not required to file a flight plan. So the only thing NORAD knows for sure in advance is that the red-suited jolly old elf, also known as Kris Kringle or Saint Nicholas, takes off every Christmas Eve from his home base at the North Pole. "NORAD tracks Santa, but only Santa knows his route, which means we cannot predict where or when he will arrive at your house."

FROM ROLLS ROYCE PHANTOM TO GOLD BATHTUB: THE MOST EXTRAVAGANT CHRISTMAS GIFTS EVER!

Diary Times Desk : When the average person shells out around £100 (approx Rs 12,000) for a partner's present, the world's biggest stars crank the price tag into the thousands—sometimes millions. This Christmas, let's unwrap the most jaw-dropping celebrity gifts ever. The Phantom Dream: In 2005 Victoria, 51, gave husband David, 50, a brand-new Rolls-Royce Phantom worth a cool £300k. For a household with a net worth of £500million, it was pocket change, and David even shipped the beast to LA when he was at LA Galaxy. The petrol-head didn't stop there – he once splashed £55k on a miniature Hummer for a five-year-old Brooklyn, and for Christmas 2012 ordered two sets of silk PJs by Olivia von Halle at over £250 a set from Harrods. A Real-Life Pony in a Pink Bow: Ten years ago Interscope gave the "Born This Way" singer a surprise Christmas pony, complete with a pink bow. Gaga posted a tear-filled video saying, "I will ride, and care for, and love her forever." The pony, named Arabella, lived at Gaga's estate until her passing in 2019. Jeff Koons' \$5 Million Dolphin: For Christmas 2014, creative director Ciarrapardo gifted Rihanna a Jeff Koons steel dolphin sculpture, a piece that once fetched over \$5 million (£3.7M).



INDIA REMAINS CONSTANTLY ENGAGED WITH US TO FIND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL, BALANCED TRADE ARRANGEMENT: AMB KWATRA

Diary Times Desk : India remains very constantly engaged with the United States to find a mutually beneficial and balanced trade arrangement as early as possible, India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra said. "On trade and tariff...we remain very constantly engaged with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) with the hope to find a mutually beneficial and a balanced trade arrangement as early as possible," Kwatra said. "Our effort all along, right through this whole year, the tone for the relationship was set during Prime Minister's visit in early February. We agreed to a very, very significant and substantial outcome document across range of areas. Space was one of them," he added. Kwatra termed India's successful launch of an American communication satellite on Wednesday as a "very important and big day" for partnership between Washington and New Delhi, saying it caps a series of achievements in 2025 in bilateral space cooperation between the countries.

SINGAPORE'S HINDU BOARD APPOINTS SERVICE VETERAN LADY TO MANAGE TEMPLES AND INDIAN CULTURE

Diary Times Desk : The Hindu Endowments Board, a statutory body that manages key Hindu temples in Singapore, has appointed a seasoned public service leader as its new chief executive officer.

Sarojini Padmanathan was appointed to the Hindu Endowments Board (HEB) on Wednesday. Throughout her 40-year distinguished career, she played a key role in hospital restructuring in the 1990s and in boosting organisational resilience during the Covid-19 pandemic. She held senior roles at the Ministry of Health and the Health Sciences Authority, leading workforce development in medical, nursing, and administrative areas.

Padmanathan previously served as the 57-year-old HEB's finance member, where she contributed significantly to enhancing financial governance and became closely involved with the board's operations, including its four temples, halfway house, and religious programmes, according to a weekly tabloid, *Tabla!* "Her leadership and strong governance background make her well-placed to guide HEB's community-focused initiatives," said HEB, founded in 1968. She succeeds Jeevaganth Arumugam, who led since September 2024. HEB manages key Hindu temples in Singapore, including Sri Mariamman and Sri Sivan temples.

TRUMP WARNS AGAINST INFILTRATION BY 'BAD SANTA,' DEFENDS COAL IN JOVIAL CHRISTMAS CALLS WITH KIDS

Diary Times Desk : President Donald Trump marked Christmas Eve by quizzing children calling in about what presents they were excited about receiving, while promising not to let a "bad Santa" infiltrate the country and even suggesting that a stocking full of coal may not be so bad. Vacationing at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, the president and first lady Melania Trump, participated in the tradition of talking to youngsters dialling into the North American Aerospace Defense Command, which playfully tracks Santa's progress around the globe. "We want to make sure that Santa is being good. Santa's a very good person," Trump said while speaking to kids ages 4 and 10 in Oklahoma. "We want to make sure that he's not infiltrated, that we're not infiltrating into our country a bad Santa." Trump has often marked Christmases past with criticisms of his political enemies, including in 2024, when he posted, "Merry Christmas to the Radical Left Lunatics." During his first term, Trump wrote online early on Dec 24, 2017, targeting a top FBI official he believed was biased against him, as well as the news media.



EARTHQUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 4.1 STRIKES TIBET

Diary Times Desk : Tibet, November 15 (ANI): An earthquake of magnitude 4.1 struck Tibet late Friday, a statement by the National Centre for Seismology (NCS) said. As per the NCS, the earthquake took place at a depth of 60km. In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 4.1, On: 14/11/2025 18:47:26 IST, Lat: 33.45 N, Long: 81.85 E, Depth: 60 Km, Location: Tibet." Earlier on November 11, an earthquake of magnitude 3.8 struck Tibet at a shallow depth of 10km. Sharing the details in a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 3.8, On: 11/11/2025 04:14:18 IST, Lat: 28.55 N, Long: 86.90 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tibet." Shallow earthquakes are generally more dangerous than deep earthquakes. This is because the seismic waves from shallow earthquakes have a shorter distance to travel to the surface, resulting in stronger ground shaking and potentially more damage to structures and greater casualties. The Tibetan Plateau is known for its seismic activity due to tectonic plate collisions. Tibet and Nepal lie on a major geological fault line where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT FLAGS US-FUNDED RESEARCH TIES WITH CHINESE DEFENCE ENTITIES

Diary Times Desk : The US House Select Committee on China has released an investigative report alleging that the Department of Defence (DOD) under the Biden administration allowed extensive US taxpayer-funded research collaboration with Chinese entities linked to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the People's Liberation Army (PLA), raising serious national security concerns. According to the report, more than 1,400 research publications were produced through DOD-funded projects involving Chinese partners, representing over \$2.5 billion in U.S. taxpayer funding. The committee stated that approximately 800 of these publications, more than half, featured direct collaboration with Chinese defence-linked institutions. The report highlights multiple case studies that the committee said demonstrate significant security risks.

TAIWAN ACCUSES CHINA OF 'TRANSNATIONAL SUPPRESSION' OVER UNDERSEA CABLE SMUGGLING CLAIMS



Diary Times Desk : The Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) accused China of engaging in "transnational suppression and political manipulation" after a Chinese public security agency claimed that Taiwanese nationals were responsible for a smuggling scheme involving a vessel crewed by Chinese that was damaged undersea cables earlier this year, according to the report from Taipei Times. In June, a Taiwanese court sentenced the Chinese captain of the Togo-registered ship Hong Tai 58 to three years in prison after determining he was guilty of deliberately damaging subsea cables off Taiwan in February, which raised concerns among officials.

The public security bureau in Weihai, located in China's Shandong Province, stated that its investigation into the incident revealed that two Taiwanese individuals orchestrated a multi-vessel operation that was unlawfully transporting frozen goods into China. These findings from Chinese authorities followed interviews with seven crew members from the Hong Tai 58, as reported by Taipei Times. The Weihai public security bureau announced a reward of up to 250,000 yuan (US\$35,370) for any information or assistance related to the two Taiwanese individuals, surnamed Chien and Chen, mentioning that they have been on a wanted list by a Chinese customs office since 2014.

FLOUR MILLERS PROTEST SINDH'S WHEAT POLICY, ALLEGGE SUBSIDY FAVOURING TRADERS

Diary Times Desk : Flour mill operators have expressed their dissatisfaction with the Sindh government's inconsistent approach of providing a restricted wheat quota to millers under the Wheat Food Policy for FY25-26, while offering an unrestricted supply to traders, as reported by Dawn. "It seems that the Sindh government's consumer subsidy will ultimately benefit traders, as the provincial administration sells wheat at Pakistani Rupees (PKR) 8,000 per 100kg bag, while traders then sell it to millers for PKR 9,500," stated Abdul Junaid Aziz, the Sindh zone chairman of the Pakistan Flour Mills Association (PFMA), during a press conference at the Karachi Press Club on Wednesday, accompanied by other association leaders. He mentioned that it remains uncertain whether the PKR 1,500 per 100kg bag subsidy was intended for consumers, traders, or end users. He noted that the government had allocated PKR 85 billion for the subsidy fund. Over the last 10 days, traders have received wheat from the Pipri godown, while flour mills have been denied supplies, according to the Dawn report. Aziz further pointed out that mills in Karachi and rural Sindh were assigned only 8,000 to 15,000 wheat bags per mill from Landhi godowns No. 1, 2, and 3.

JAISHANKAR LAUDS INDIA'S CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF KIMBERLEY PROCESS; SAYS IT REAFFIRMS ROLE IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF DIAMOND TRADE

Diary Times Desk : External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Thursday welcomed India's selection as the Chair of the UN-backed Kimberley Process (KP) starting in 2026, terming it a reaffirmation of India's role in global governance of the diamond trade. In a post on X, Jaishankar said, "Pleased at India's selection as the Chair of UN-backed Kimberley Process, starting 2026. A reaffirmation of India's role in global governance of diamond trade through reform and consensus." The Chairpersonship of India was also confirmed by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry in an official release, noting that India will assume the Chairpersonship from January 1, 2026, after taking over as Vice Chair from December 25, 2025. This will be the third time India has been entrusted with the leadership of the KP, the release stated. The Kimberley Process is a tripartite initiative involving governments, the international diamond industry, and civil society, aimed at preventing the trade in "conflict diamonds".

NVIDIA TO POACH TOP STAFF FROM AI CHIP START-UP GROQ IN LICENSING DEAL



Diary Times Desk : Nvidia is scooping up the founder and other top talent from Groq, one of the most prominent start-ups aiming to challenge the chipmaker's dominance in artificial intelligence processors. Jonathan Ross, a former Google chip engineer who founded Groq in 2016, and the start-up's president Sunny Madra, are among those who will join Nvidia as part of a technology licensing deal, the two companies announced on Christmas Eve. Jensen Huang, Nvidia's chief executive, said in an email to staff that the Groq deal would "expand the capabilities" of the data centres that were built around its chips, which he calls "AI factories". "We plan to integrate Groq's low-latency processors into the Nvidia AI factory architecture, extending the platform to serve an even broader range of AI inference and real-time workloads," he wrote in the email, which was seen by the Financial Times. Despite the loss of much of its leadership team, Groq said it "will continue to operate as an independent company". Groq has focused on developing chips that can accelerate AI "inference", the process of returning responses to users' queries via chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google's Gemini.

KIM JONG UN VISITS NUKE SUBS, GETS "INVINCIBLE FRIENDSHIP" MESSAGE FROM RUSSIA

Diary Times Desk : North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited a nuclear submarine factory and received a message from Russia's Vladimir Putin hailing the countries' "invincible friendship", Pyongyang's state media said Thursday. North Korea and Russia have drawn closer since Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine nearly four years ago, and Pyongyang has sent troops to fight for Russia.

In return, Russia is sending North Korea financial aid, military technology and food and energy supplies, analysts say. The "heroic" efforts of North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk region "clearly proved the invincible friendship" between Moscow and Pyongyang, Putin said in a message to Kim, according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). Their work demonstrated the nations' "militant fraternity", Putin said in the message received by Pyongyang last week.

CAR WITH HANUKKAH SIGN SET ON FIRE IN MELBOURNE DAYS AFTER BONDI ATTACK

Diary Times Desk : Australian police are investigating a "suspicious fire" after a car carrying a sign celebrating the Jewish festival of Hanukkah was set ablaze Thursday in Melbourne. The empty car, which had a "Happy Chanukah" sign fixed to the roof, was scorched by the fire while parked in a house driveway, images on national broadcaster ABC television showed. It was set alight in the early hours of Thursday morning in the Melbourne suburb of St Kilda East, Victoria police said in a statement, describing it as a "suspicious fire". Occupants of the house were evacuated as a precaution. "Detectives have identified a person who may be able to assist with their investigation and they are actively searching for and making enquiries into their whereabouts," police said. Australian authorities are stiffening laws and penalties for hate crimes after a December 14 mass shooting at a Hanukkah festival.

NO INDIA IPO FOR NOW: SAMSUNG BETS ON AI, LOCAL MANUFACTURING AND EASY FINANCE TO DRIVE GROWTH

Diary Times Desk : Samsung Electronics has ruled out listing its India business for the time being, choosing instead to focus on expanding artificial intelligence (AI) adoption across its products, strengthening local manufacturing, and growing its consumer finance offerings in one of its most important global markets, the company's top executive said to news agency PTI. In an interview with PTI, JB Park, President and CEO of Samsung Southwest Asia, said the South Korean electronics major has no immediate plans to tap the Indian capital markets. When asked about a possible IPO, Park said, "No, we do not have any such plans as of now."

Samsung, which operates its largest smartphone manufacturing facility in the world at Noida, is instead looking to deepen its manufacturing footprint in India. Park said the company has applied under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for components to manufacture mobile phone displays locally, underscoring India's role as both a major domestic market and an export hub.

While South Korean peers such as Hyundai Motor India and LG Electronics have recently accessed public markets, Samsung prefers to fund its expansion internally. Park said the company has several alternatives to raise capital if needed. "So, there are multiple options that you can get the working capital in place. So, IPO is not the plan for Samsung," he said.



HONDURAS' ELECTORAL AUTHORITY DECLARES NASRY ASFURA CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT

Diary Times Desk : Honduras' National Electoral Council (CNE) said Wednesday that National Party candidate Nasry Asfura was elected the country's constitutional president in the general elections held on November 30.

According to official CNE data, Asfura won 40.27 percent of the vote. He was followed by Liberal Party candidate Salvador Nasralla with 39.53 percent, and Rixi Moncada of the ruling Liberty and Refoundation Party with 19.19 percent. The announcement came 24 days after election day, following delays caused by malfunctions in the vote-counting system, as cited by authorities, and allegations of irregularities from several political actors who said the issues could amount to electoral fraud.

Prior to the election, U.S. President Donald Trump endorsed Asfura and suggested that U.S. aid to Honduras could be withheld if Asfura did not win. On December 9, Honduran President Xiomara Castro condemned what she described as external interference in the elections, saying the process was marked by "threats, coercion and manipulation." She specifically criticized Trump's involvement and remarks as undermining Honduran sovereignty and democratic norms.

SENIOR IS COMMANDER ARRESTED IN JOINT OPERATION BY SYRIA, U.S.-LED COALITION

Diary Times Desk : Syrian security forces arrested a senior leader of the Islamic State (IS) group during a security operation in the countryside of Damascus on Wednesday, Syrian state media reported.

Citing an Interior Ministry source, state-run SANA news agency said that the operation, carried out in coordination with the General Intelligence Service and a U.S.-led international coalition, targeted an IS hideout in the city of al-Moadamiya in Rural Damascus after intensive surveillance and intelligence monitoring. Ahmad al-Dallati, head of internal security in Rural Damascus, said the operation resulted in the arrest of the group's top leader in Damascus, identified as Taha al-Zoubi, also known as "Abu Omar Tabiya," along with several of his aides. Al-Dallati said security forces also seized an explosive suicide belt and military-grade weaponry during the operation, describing the raid as a major blow to IS networks operating in and around the country's capital.

JANE STREET HIRES LOBBYISTS AFTER 20 YEARS AMID SEBI INVESTIGATION

Diary Times Desk : Jane Street Group has hired lobbyists for the first time in 20 years, and top executives have been proactively meeting with lawmakers.

As part of a probe announced in July, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is investigating additional trading strategies Jane Street used, including allegedly manipulating India's biggest index to make money with an options strategy commonly known as a "short straddle," according to people familiar with the investigation.

Sebi is expected to conclude its investigation soon, according to people in the know. In July, Sebi accused Jane Street of "egregious" market manipulation in an interim order while it continued to investigate the firm. It temporarily banned the firm from the country's markets and ordered it to put \$570 million in escrow.

Jane Street filed an appeal, which will be heard next month. It has consistently denied any wrongdoing in India.

NEXT BUDGET SHOULD FOCUS ON WIDENING TAX BASE, SAYS REPORT

Diary Times Desk : The Union Budget 2026 needs to focus on widening the direct tax base, incentivising private sector investment and freezing peak direct tax rates to further accelerate growth and generate employment opportunities, a report said.

Recent reforms under GST 2.0 have demonstrated that simplification and tax moderation can coexist with strong revenue growth, challenging the long-held belief that higher tax rates are necessary to boost collections, a report titled 'Shaping India's New Taxation Ideology: Simplification, Moderation and Growth' said. "As India approaches the Union Budget, the choices made will determine whether taxation becomes a catalyst for long-term economic expansion or a constraint on ambition," the report released by a think tank Think Change Forum (TCF) on Wednesday read. The report outlines a six-point advisory for policymakers, urging them to extend the principles of GST reform to direct taxes.

SWIGGY, ZOMATO GIG WORKERS CALL FOR ALL-INDIA STRIKE ON DECEMBER 25, 31

Diary Times Desk : Delivery and gig workers from major e-commerce, food delivery, and home service platforms, including Swiggy, Zomato, Zepto, Blinkit, Amazon, Flipkart, and other E-Commerce aggregator companies, are observing an all-India strike on December 25 and 31. The workers are protesting against the worsening working conditions and the denial of fair wages, safety, dignity, and social security.

"Despite being the backbone of last-mile delivery, especially during peak seasons and festivals-delivery workers are forced to endure long working hours, falling earnings, unsafe delivery targets, arbitrary ID blocking, lack of job security, and absence of basic welfare protections," said the Telangana Gig and Platform Workers Union (TGPWU) and the Indian Federation of App-Based Transport Workers (IFAT) in a statement. Additionally, the workers also called for government intervention and urged both the Central and State Governments to immediately regulate the platforms. "Delivery workers are being pushed to breaking point by unsafe work models, falling incomes, and total absence of social protection. This strike is a collective call for justice, dignity, and accountability. The government can no longer remain a silent spectator."



CHINESE SMALL GOODS ILLUMINATE GLOBAL FESTIVALS WITH INNOVATION, CULTURE

Diary Times Desk : In a factory in Anshan, northeast China's Liaoning Province, workers were busy producing Easter crafts like rabbits and colored eggs, destined for American supermarkets.

"In the past, we mainly produced products based on orders for overseas customers, with a limited variety and simple manufacturing processes. Now, we have our own brand and a professional design team developing over 1,000 new products," said Li Xiaowei, general manager of Qixiang Crafts Co., Ltd.

This scene at Qixiang Crafts exemplifies how Chinese small goods are evolving from basic products to cultural ambassadors, lighting up holidays worldwide with innovation and design. The shift from order-based manufacturing to brand-building reflects a broader trend in China's small goods sector. In east China's Yiwu, known as the "world Christmas goods capital," a street lamp that simulates snowfall, developed by a Chinese Christmas crafts factory, drew considerable attention from shoppers.



OPENAI CEO SAM ALTMAN SAYS 'SKY-HIGH' SALARIES WILL COME ONLY AFTER AI...

Diary Times Desk : OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman believes the next decade will redefine what a career even looks like, but not without significant disruption first. Speaking in a recent interview, Altman painted a future where today's students could step into entirely new, highly paid professions by the mid-2030s, while also acknowledging that artificial intelligence will wipe out many traditional roles along the way.

Altman described the period ahead as potentially the most exciting time in history to start a career. In his view, a student graduating around 2035 may not enter a conventional job market at all. Instead of applying for office roles or climbing corporate ladders, they could find themselves working in industries that barely exist today, with salaries and opportunities far beyond current norms.

He suggested that some of these roles could be tied to space exploration and other frontier technologies, describing a scenario where graduates might join missions to explore the solar system in jobs that are not only intellectually stimulating but also exceptionally well paid. According to Altman, these kinds of opportunities will emerge once AI systems take over large parts of today's routine and knowledge-based work.



COACHING INSTITUTE FINED RS 11 LAKH FOR MISLEADING AD ON UPSC CSE RESULTS

Diary Times Desk : Deep manufacturing must be. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 11 lakh on Vision IAS (AjayVision Education Private Limited) for publishing misleading advertisements on its official website concerning the results of the UPSC Civil Services Examination (CSE) 2022 and 2023, in violation of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, an official statement said on Thursday. As per the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, the institute had advertised claims such as "7 in Top 10 & 79 in Top 100 selections in CSE 2023" and "39 in Top 50 selections in CSE 2022", prominently featuring the names, photographs and ranks of successful candidates. Upon examination, the CCPA found that while the institute disclosed the specific course opted by Shubham Kumar (AIR 1, UPSC CSE 2020) namely, GS Foundation Batch (Classroom Student), it deliberately concealed information regarding the courses chosen by other successful candidates whose names and photographs were displayed alongside him on the same webpage, it said.

FALLING GLOBAL INTEREST RATES PUSH GOLD HIGHER, BUT PRICES MAY CORRECT 10-15% IN EARLY 2026: GJC FOUNDER MEMBER

Diary Times Desk : Gold prices have witnessed a sharp surge amid declining global interest rates and heightened geopolitical uncertainties, though a correction of 10-15 per cent is likely in early 2026 as markets normalise after the holiday season and risks begin to ease, said Ananth Padmanaban, founder member and former chairman of the All India Gem & Jewellery Domestic Council (GJC), in an interview with ANI. "Prices are continuously going up because the interest rates are going down across the world," Padmanaban told ANI. He pointed out that major central banks are moving towards monetary easing, adding, "Yesterday even the Bank of England has lowered interest rates, and next month again it will also come in the US. All this is happening, and a lot of geopolitical situations are driving gold prices higher." According to him, domestic gold prices are currently hovering around ₹1,40,000 per 10 grams.

BOMBAY HC STAYS ACTION BY 3 BANKS AGAINST ANIL AMBANI, RELIANCE COM

Diary Times Desk : The Bombay High Court on Wednesday stayed all 'fraud' classification proceedings against Anil Ambani and RCom by a consortium of three banks, citing violations of mandatory RBI rules and a classic case of banks "waking up from deep slumber" after years.

Granting an interim relief to Ambani and his company by staying all present and future action by Indian Overseas Bank, IDBI Bank and Bank of Baroda, Justice Milind Jadhav said that the banks' move was based on a legally flawed forensic audit and violated the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) mandatory guidelines. The court refused to take on record a forensic audit report prepared by BDO LLP in October 2020 saying the report was 'prima facie inconclusive' and could not be used as a basis for punitive action because it was not signed by a Chartered Accountant (CA) as required under the Reserve Bank of India's 2024 Master Directions on fraud. The judge also pointed out that the BDO LLP had previously worked as a consultant for one of the lender banks, creating a 'conflicting position' that undermined its independence as an auditor.



NAVI MUMBAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HANDLES 48 FLIGHTS SERVING OVER 4,000 PASSENGERS ON DAY 1



Diary Times Desk : Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) commenced commercial operations on Thursday, marking a landmark expansion of Mumbai's aviation capacity and a decisive step in India's infrastructure journey.

With NMIA now operational, Mumbai joins global aviation cities such as London, New York, Moscow, Tokyo and Shanghai, each supported by multiple airports to meet rising demand, as per a statement released by the Adani Group. For the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), this signals the start of a true multi-airport system designed for scale, resilience and the future.

Developed and operated by Adani Airports Holdings Limited (AAHL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), NMIA is among India's largest greenfield airport projects. Conceived to ease congestion at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA), the project underscores the Adani Group's ability to deliver complex, nation-building infrastructure in record time. The inaugural commercial arrival-IndiGo flight 6E460 from Bengaluru-landed at 08:00 hours to a traditional water cannon salute. On Day One, NMIA handled 48 flights connecting nine domestic destinations, serving over 4,000 passengers, with peak traffic recorded between 05:00 and 07:00 hours, reflecting strong early demand and operational readiness from the outset, the release said. Chairman Gautam Adani personally welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight and interacted with airport staff, frontline workers and first-time flyers.

He later joined a ceremonial walk through the departure terminal with airport employees, community representatives and Adani Foundation beneficiaries. The airport launch concluded with a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Bana Singh and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, followed by the national anthem. Leading sportspersons Suryakumar Yadav, Mithali Raj and Sunil Chhetri, along with social influencers Malini Agarwal and Viraj Ghelani, were present. Adani said that welcoming NMIA's first passengers, alongside the Param Vir Chakra awardees, offered a glimpse of India now taking shape.

BOTH ENDS OF TUNNEL ON SHIMLA BYPASS CONNECTED

Diary Times Desk : The two ends of the 210 m tunnel being constructed on the Shimla bypass by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have been connected. The construction of the tunnel began on May 22. The NHAI completed the project on December 23 in a record time of seven months. The tunnel was constructed using the New Austrian Tunnel Method (NATM), considered the most effective tunnelling technique currently in use. It is on December 23 that the NHAI connected the two ends of tunnel number five which is part of the 27.45 km Shimla bypass project, a vital section of the Chandigarh-Shimla corridor. The tunnel connects the Shimla bypass to its last point, Chalonthi. The tunnels construction will facilitate future access to the Atal Super Specialty Institute of Medical Sciences, Chamiana, and will also alleviate Shimla's traffic congestion. The project, which includes five tunnels, aims to make public travel faster and more convenient. The construction of the Shimla bypass will reduce traffic congestion in the state capital and travel time to Dhalli near Sanjauli by approximately one hour. With 90 per cent of the vehicular traffic moving on the Circular Road, the construction of the tunnel on the bypass will help reduce congestion in the town.

HIMACHAL CM UNDERSCORES SPORTS PUSH, CITES INFRA UPGRADE FOR PLAYERS

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday said the state government had accorded top priority to the promotion of sports by strengthening infrastructure and enhancing incentives for sportspersons. He said the state was making significant investments in modern sports facilities while offering improved prize money, higher diet allowances and assured employment opportunities to encourage youth to pursue sports professionally. "These initiatives help channelise the energy of young people in a positive direction, promote fitness and steer them away from social evils," the CM said. Sukhu added that better incentives and career security were motivating talented players to take up sports as a full-time profession. He said a three per cent sports quota had been provided in government employment for outstanding sportspersons.

SHIMLA WINTER CARNIVAL OPENS TO TOURIST RUSH, CULTURAL SPECTACLE

Diary Times Desk : Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Wednesday inaugurated the Shimla Winter Carnival, organised by the Shimla Municipal Corporation, at The Ridge here. The CM also flagged off a vibrant cultural parade featuring folk troupes from all districts of the state. He visited the painting exhibition, witnessed the Maha Nati performance and attended the Home Guards Inter-Battalion band competition held near the Town Hall. Congratulating the organisers, Sukhu extended his best wishes for the successful conduct of the carnival, which is being held on the theme of a 'Drug-Free Himachal'. Sukhu said Himachal Pradesh's serene and pollution-free environment not only offers peace and calm but also promotes good health. "The state has been richly endowed by nature with exceptional scenic beauty and its picturesque valleys attract crores of tourists every year," he said.



8-DAY KANGRA CARNIVAL KICKS OFF IN DHARAMSALA

Diary Times Desk : The picturesque hill town of Dharamsala came alive with colour, culture and celebration as the Kangra Carnival was inaugurated with much enthusiasm, marking the formal beginning of the tourist season in the region. Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri inaugurated the much-awaited event, reiterating the state government's vision of developing Kangra as the tourism capital of Himachal Pradesh. The celebrations began with a majestic Shobha Yatra led by the Deputy Chief Minister. The procession started from the Deputy Commissioner's Office and, after paying obeisance at the historic Hanuman Mandir at Kachehari Adda, culminated at the Police Ground, the main venue of the carnival. Administrative officers, security personnel, cultural troupes and enthusiastic participants – dressed in traditional pagris and ethnic attire – marched to the beat of drums and folk music. A major highlight of the procession was the vibrant showcase of Kangra's cosmopolitan culture. Troupes in traditional Gaddi, Tibetan, Nepalese and Jhamakra costumes reflected the region's rich diversity. Cultural contingents from neighbouring states such as Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, facilitated by the North Zone Cultural Centre, lent a broader Himalayan flavour.

5 SCHOOL KIDS FALL ILL AFTER TAKING IRON FOLIC ACID TABLETS IN HIMACHAL PRADESH'S NURPUR

Diary Times Desk : Sudden gastro problem developed in five students of a private senior secondary school near Nurpur after consuming of iron folic acid tablets in their school yesterday. This triggered panic among parents who rushed their wards in hospitals at Nurpur and Pathankot. According to information, these health supplements were supplied by the health department in MCS school at Raja ka Bagh for school kids under government sponsored school health programme 'Iron Folic Acid'. The health supplement had been given to as many as 550 students in the school, but only five had developed gastritis symptoms. Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Vivek Karol when contacted said the school kids were given the supplement in an empty stomach whereas it had to be taken after meals. He said that in order to follow medical protocol, the drug inspector of Nurpur has been directed to put the whole supply of this supplement on hold in health department's store at Gangath and send its sample for laboratory testing to rule out any issue of its efficacy. He said next action would be taken after procuring laboratory testing reports of the supplement.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

26-12-2025

Aries

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

Taurus

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

Gemini

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

Cancer

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

Leo

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

Virgo

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

Libra

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

Scorpio

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

Sagittarius

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

Capricorn

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

Aquarius

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

Pisces

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

BJP PUNJAB SLAMS AAP'S '16% GST GROWTH' CLAIM AS 'FAKE', SAYS FIGURES MANIPULATED

Diary Times Desk : A number of senior leaders and workers from the Indian National Congress joined the BJP today at the Punjab BJP Headquarters. The leaders were formally inducted into the party in the presence of the State Working President BJP Punjab Ashwani Sharma, and senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia, former Cabinet Minister. The leaders who joined the BJP include Ashwani Kumar Sharma National Vice-President, INTUC; former Chairman, Punjab Labour & Employment Cell, Congress; former President, Punjab INTUC; Moti Lal Dhamaka – Former MLA Candidate (1991); former Councillor Candidate (2002); Vice-President, Punjab INTUC; Anil Kumar Raja – Block President, Youth Congress, Chheharta; Pt. Prince Dhami – President, Punjab Brahmin Manch; Mattu Kohli (Jalandhar) – Former Congress worker; Avtar Singh – Ex-serviceman; Ankur Sharma ; Ajaypal Singh ;Nitish Mahajan – Advocate; Rahul Ghanatra; Rahul Sharma. Anil Sarin, State General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Punjab, said in a statement today that the claim made by Finance Minister Harpal Cheema of a 16 per cent increase in GST revenue is nothing but manipulation of figures and a deception of the public.

MISSING FOR 2 MONTHS, SHAHKOT YOUTH CAUGHT IN PAK'S KASUR SECTOR

Diary Times Desk : A Shahkot-based youth, missing for nearly two months, has reportedly crossed the India-Pakistan border and has been apprehended in the neighbouring nation's Kasur sector. Pakistan released a photograph on Wednesday showing the missing youth, Sharandeep Singh (23), a resident of Bhoepur village in Shahkot, with Pakistan Rangers. However, it is still not clear under what circumstances Sharandeep crossed the border. His father, Satnam Singh, said he had lodged a missing report with the police. He also said that an FIR had earlier been registered against his son and that Sharandeep had remained lodged in a Kapurthala jail. He went missing a few days after being released on bail. "Sharandeep's father told us that his son left home without any information on November 2.

CBI FILES CHARGESHEET AGAINST 4 PUNJAB COPS IN COL PUSHPINDER BATH ASSAULT CASE

Diary Times Desk : The CBI has filed a chargesheet in a Mohali court against four Punjab cops in the Colonel Pushpinder Bath assault case. The prosecution has pressed grievous hurt and wrongful restraint charges among others against the four Punjab Police officials. According to the chargesheet, inspector Ronnie Singh is the main accused in the case. The attempt to murder charge does not find mention in the chargesheet. The Patiala Police had earlier registered an FIR against police inspectors Harry Boparai, Ronnie Singh and Harjinder Dhillon under Sections 109 (attempt to murder), 310, 155(2), 117(2) (related to voluntarily causing hurt), 126(2) (wrongful restraint), and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Later, another inspector was named under Sections 299 and 191 of the BNS. The alleged incident occurred on the intervening night of March 13 and 14, when Colonel Bath and his son were at a roadside eatery near Rajindra Hospital in Patiala. The family claimed that while they were standing next to their car and eating, some police officers in civilian clothes approached them and asked the colonel to move his vehicle so that they could park theirs.



MIGRATORY BIRDS FIND NEW RESTING GROUNDS IN SHALLOW WATERS OF GOBIND SAGAR LAKE

Diary Times Desk : Migratory birds, especially bar-headed geese, have found new resting places and have started flocking in the backwaters of Gobind Sagar Lake near Bhakra. Bird watchers and environmentalists are claiming that the migratory birds have found new resting grounds in the backwaters of Gobind Sagar Lake and have begun avoiding the Ropar and Nangal wetlands.

Dr Satbir, a keen bird watcher and wildlife photographer from Nangal town, said that although very few bar-headed geese have reached Nangal and Ropar wetland areas, large flocks were seen in the backwaters of Gobind Sagar Lake near Naina Devi in Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh. He added that many migratory birds were seen near the Garib Dass temple and other islands in Gobind Sagar Lake of the Bhakra Dam. Prabhat Bhati, another bird watcher, said that he was noticing a fall in numbers of migratory birds coming to Nangal Dam wetland area for the last few years. We were attributing it to climate change or increase of human activity near wetland areas, However, now it seems that the birds have changed their resting grounds from wetlands in Ropar to shallow waters of Gobind Sagar Lake, he said.

PUNJAB CRAVES GOLDEN MUSTARD OPPORTUNITY, BUT LOW PROFITS KEEP FARMERS FROM SOWING THE CROP

Diary Times Desk : Punjab and mustard fields have long been synonymous. From memorable Bollywood scenes to stunning golden stretches along village roads, mustard fields once defined the rural beauty of the state. Today, however, this iconic sight is fading as low returns push farmers away from cultivating the crop. Mustard oil prices in the country are consistently rising, while the area dedicated to oilseed crops is continuously shrinking. In Punjab, between 1970 and 1975, the area under oilseed crops—including soybean, toria, mustard, and sunflower—was approximately 5 lakh hectares. This has now plummeted to just 51,000 hectares. Last year, the area under mustard specifically was around 41,000 hectares. Punjab's farmers remain reluctant to break away from the traditional wheat-paddy cycle to sow oilseeds. In the current financial year, oilseed crops were cultivated on about 51,000 hectares. While the ideal sowing time for a good mustard harvest is from late September to the end of October, some varieties can be sown until the end of November. In Punjab, the primary varieties grown.

ED SEARCHES 11 LOCATIONS ACROSS 5 STATES IN LUDHIANA INDUSTRIALIST S P OSWAL'S DIGITAL ARREST CASE



Diary Times Desk : The Enforcement Directorate has searched 11 locations across five states in connection with an anti-money laundering case in a digital arrest scam in which Ludhiana-based industrialist S P Oswal lost more than Rs 7 crore, officials said on Thursday.

The searches were conducted on Monday at 11 locations in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Assam under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. "Various incriminating documents and digital devices were recovered and seized during search proceedings," an ED spokesperson said in a statement. The ED had arrested Rumi Kalita from Assam on Tuesday after it surfaced that she allegedly offered her mule account for transferring funds in the case.

"The amounts cheated from victims were immediately diverted by group of persons in various mule accounts and credentials of those accounts were being used by one Rumi Kalita in lieu of certain percentage of cheated money to be given to her as her share," the spokesperson said in the statement. It said various incriminating evidences gathered during the search show that she was allegedly deeply involved in the diversion and layering of the proceeds of crime.

EDITORIAL

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.



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

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?



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 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.

"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 its children.

INFA

A Blue Schoolbag In A Mass Grave

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



Helen Regan
Tamil, 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.

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.

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.



COLLECTING GUIDE: THE MOST COVETED HERMÈS COLOURS

Diary Times Desk : Hermès is renowned for its fine leather and vast kaleidoscope of colours. Each colour palette is meticulously designed, epitomising timeless elegance and refined taste. The extensive range of colours offers fashion enthusiasts a wealth of choices. The diverse combinations of the materials and colours, spanning from delicate hues to vibrant shades, reflects the brand's ultimate quest for colour accuracy and its dedication to craftsmanship in the dyeing process. These shades can reflect different styles and have become an important tool for self-expression.

Each colour is assigned a unique Hermès colour code, consisting of numbers and letters. Drawing on years of experience, Christie's Handbags & Accessories specialists reveal an exquisite selection of the Hermès colours that are most sought after by collectors.

5P Pink is undisputedly the most iconic of all Hermès pink shades. It has been widely admired by collectors since its release and hailed as Hermès's best pink shade. While often seen on Epsom leathers, it becomes even more coveted among collectors when rendered in exotic skins. The recurring presence of Hermès 5P Pink handbags in pop culture underscores their significant influence and enduring value in the market.

It is a delicate and refreshing shade of cherry blossom pink, inspired by the soft hues of cherry blossom petals and evoking the vitality and energy of spring. Hermès handbags in 3Q Rose Sakura have consistently achieved remarkable results at auctions, making this shade one of the most sought-after colours of Hermès handbags.

When collectors speak of luminous, captivating pinks, one shade invariably comes to mind: Hermès' enchanting Rose Shéhérazade, also known as 'Scheherazade Pink'. Its name draws inspiration from the literary classic One Thousand and One Nights, referencing the legendary queen Scheherazade, famed for her storytelling prowess. This association lends the color an aura of mystery and romance, imbued with a regal sophistication. The hue itself is a refined pink with balanced saturation and a subtle undertone of violet, creating depth and complexity.



A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO ANCIENT GREEK VASES

Diary Times Desk :

For a civilisation that receded 2,000 years ago, the ancient Greeks left a great deal behind: philosophy, democracy, poetry, architecture — and an extensive corpus of vases, which comprise a large part of the archaeological record.

The durability, elegance and variety of Greek vases mean that they are as collectable today as when prize examples first began to be actively unearthed during the rise of the Grand Tour in the 17th and 18th centuries. Indeed, their enduring popularity is reflected in the breadth of their influence on modern and contemporary art — as seen in the pottery of Grayson Perry and Picasso, and in the paintings of Giorgio de Chirico and Jonas Wood.

There are many excellent examples of Greek vases on the market, but prospective buyers are advised to tread carefully when it comes to restoration, repairs and provenance. Here, Christie's Ancient Art and Antiquities specialist Hannah Solomon offers her top tips for new collectors.

From small kylikes (cups) to large kraters (mixing vessels), Greek pottery varies greatly in size and style. Familiarise yourself as much as possible with these differences, which are of great importance in determining the rarity and value of a piece.

As a rule, larger pieces in good condition will sell for the highest prices, while smaller pieces are more likely to survive and are therefore more widely available on the market. The range of forms that we are familiar with today mostly evolved around the 6th century B.C., including the elegant lekythos, olpe and amphora shapes that can often be seen at auction. One of the first things a collector should consider is the condition of a vase. It is possible to find examples that have remained intact through the centuries, but they are very rare. If a vase has been repaired, it's important to look carefully at the extent of the damage and the quality of the restoration. Is it made up of big fragments or small ones? How much restoration is visible? If a vase is in fragments, are all the original pieces still there or have they been filled in? Has anything been repainted? The more restoration and repainting you can identify, the more careful you should be in terms of value.



BARCELONA EYEING A MOVE FOR A YOUNG DEFENDER WITH GREAT FUTURE IN JANUARY



Diary Times Desk : Barcelona are facing a major dilemma heading into the January transfer window.

Although signing a new player in the middle of the season was not something the club had planned, the recent injury of Andreas Christensen has compounded the problems for Hansi Flick. As a result, the club could be tempted to make a move for a new defender in January, as they look to beef up their options at the back. According to Matteo Moretto on Radio MARCA, Barcelona are indeed looking for a new central defender in the winter transfer window. However, the club are not just looking for any centre-back. They ideally want to sign a young defender who has a great future ahead of him. This directly contradicts earlier reports that suggested Barça might be looking for a short-term solution while preferring to wait until the summer to pursue their main targets. However, it is entirely possible the club could look to loan a young and talented defender, with the buyout clause added in the contract.

BARCELONA SCOUTS IMPRESSED BY 22-YEAR-OLD DEFENDER ON NATIONAL TEAM DEBUT AT AFCON

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona have scouts present at the ongoing Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) as they continue to keep an eye out for young talents making waves.

One of the players that the Blaugrana are closely tracking at the tournament happens to be Levante striker Etta Eyong.

The 22-year-old Cameroonian striker started the tournament with the only goal of the game in his team's win over Gabon.

However, as it so happens, Eyong was not the only player who happened to catch the eyes of the Blaugrana scouts in the game. Indeed, according to SPORT, Barcelona's scouts were also impressed by the performance of Eyong's Cameroon teammate Samuel Kotto. The left-sided centre-back, aged 22, who currently plays for Gent in Belgium, stood out for his physical strength and ability on the ball, making an impression on the scouts from the Catalan club. It is well-known that Barcelona are eyeing a centre-back for the summer of 2026, preferably left-footed, having not filled the void left by Inigo Martinez's exit in the previous transfer window.

HANSI FLICK'S BARCELONA RENEWAL COULD DEPEND ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION RESULTS

Diary Times Desk : Hansi Flick has endeared himself to the FC Barcelona faithful in the 18 months that he has been at the club.

The 60-year-old German tactician has brought success back to the club, with the team playing an attractive, eye-catching brand of football, while he has fully embraced the idea of bloodling talents from La Masia. So, it does not come as a surprise that, having extended his contract only six months ago, Barcelona are already considering offering him another renewal.

Flick's current contract runs until 2027, but the Catalans are hoping to secure his continuity at the club for an additional year until 2028, with initial talks having taken place. However, according to Mundo Deportivo, although he has not stated it in such direct terms himself, it would be difficult to imagine Flick renewing his contract with Barcelona if Joan Laporta does not remain in office after the next elections.

The Barça presidential elections are set to take place in a few months, with Laporta contesting again, in the hope of remaining in office.

BARCELONA SUBMIT FINAL DOCUMENTS TO HOST 62,000 FANS AT SPOTIFY CAMP NOU WITH KEY MATCH IN FOCUS

Diary Times Desk : According to a recent report from Mundo Deportivo, it has come to light that Barcelona are now waiting on a crucial green light that could significantly change the atmosphere at the Spotify Camp Nou.

The club is currently awaiting approval from the Barcelona City Council to open the North Stand, a step that would allow the stadium to host up to 62,000 spectators.

It is said that Barcelona have already done their part. All the required documentation has been submitted to the City Council as part of the application for the 1C licence. This approval would authorise an increase in capacity from the current figure of just over 45,000 fans to 62,000, marking another important phase in the gradual reopening of the stadium following extensive renovation works. After a swift return in November, the next objective is far more ambitious and visually striking. Once the City Council gives its approval, the entire ring formed by the first and second tiers will be fully operational.



BARCELONA ENQUIRE ABOUT €22M-RATED PREMIER LEAGUE STAR SET TO BECOME A FREE AGENT IN 2026

Diary Times Desk : FC Barcelona will enter the market for a new centre-back in the summer transfer window, with the plan being to recruit a left-footed player to make up for Inigo Martinez's exit last summer.

The idea is to bring in a high-quality, proven performer who can make an immediate impact in the squad, leading to links with the likes of Josko Gvardiol of Manchester City and Alessandro Bastoni of Inter Milan.

However, now, another name appears to have popped up on the radars of the Catalans, one who would be much more affordable financially. Indeed, according to Matteo Moretto, Barcelona are interested in AFC Bournemouth and Argentina centre-back Marcos Senesi and have made enquiries to learn about his situation.

Senesi, 28, has been at Bournemouth since 2022, having arrived from Feyenoord, and is an integral part of the Cherries' setup.

However, the Argentine international's contract with the Premier League team expires at the end of the season and he is expected to move on as a free agent in the summer, rather than leaving the club in January.

BARCELONA SUPERSTAR FINISHES 2025 AS THE BEST DRIBBLER IN EUROPE

Diary Times Desk : Barcelona ended 2025 with a 2-0 win over Villarreal, which helped the team maintain their solid lead at the top of the league.

It marked an end to an extraordinary year for Barcelona, who have once again emerged as the most dominant team in Spain.

But it was an even better year for Lamine Yamal, who won several accolades while finishing second in the Ballon d'Or at the age of just 18. The Barcelona winger, though, has another feather in his cap as he ends 2025 as the best dribbler in Europe, reports MARCA.

Over the last 12 months, the young forward has completed a total of 285 dribbles. To put his dominance into perspective, no other player in Europe's top five leagues comes close. His nearest challenger, Jeremy Doku of Manchester City, sits far behind at 155, while Kylian Mbappe completes the podium with 144. Yamal's ability to beat his man has become his trademark. In fact, he came agonizingly close to shattering a club record held by the greatest of all time.