

ARTS & CULTURE · SINGAPORE

Walking into caves most people will never see

Singapore opens a rare show of China's Dunhuang cave art, with four full-size caves visitors can step inside.

On the edge of the Gobi Desert, near the oasis town of Dunhuang, a cliff is honeycombed with Buddhist caves. For a thousand years, from the 4th to the 14th century, artists painted them floor to ceiling.

The murals are fragile. Visitors' breath raises the humidity that harms the paint, so China limits daily tickets and closes many caves entirely.

On September 25, Singapore's Asian Civilisations Museum opens *Sacred Caves*, made with China's Dunhuang Academy. Its heart is four hand-painted, life-size copies of real caves. Three of the originals are restricted or closed.

WHY IT MATTERS HERE

Most Americans will never reach Dunhuang. The show runs until March 7, 2027, and tests an idea museums everywhere are weighing: is a faithful copy the best way to share a treasure too fragile for crowds?

THE QUESTION WE'RE FOLLOWING

Will more of the world's fragile wonders travel as copies?

U.S. · HEALTH

One blood test, dozens of cancers: FDA advisers say yes, with doubts

The panel backed Galleri for adults 50 and older. The final decision is still months away.

On Wednesday, advisers to the Food and Drug Administration voted on Galleri, a \$949 blood test that looks for signs of up to 50 kinds of cancer. They voted 10–0 that it is safe, 6–4 that it works, and 7–2 that its benefits outweigh its risks.

Most of the cancers it looks for have no routine screening test today. But a large British trial did not show the drop in advanced cancers it was designed to prove. A National Cancer Institute scientist warned that broad use could “risk harm and waste resources.”

WHY IT MATTERS HERE

Congress has already approved Medicare coverage for multi-cancer tests the FDA approves. If the agency says yes, many readers could be offered this test. The question to ask a doctor: what does a “no cancer found” result really tell me?

THE QUESTION WE’RE FOLLOWING

Will the FDA follow its advisers, and what will Medicare pay for?

ENERGY · DIESEL

No ban on diesel exports, the White House says

The idea surfaced a day earlier, as diesel prices sat near record highs.

Diesel averages about \$6.53 a gallon nationwide, pushed up by wars in Iran and Ukraine that have squeezed world oil supplies. On Tuesday, President Trump said he had called for keeping more diesel at home. Politico then reported a 90-day ban on exports was being prepared.

On Wednesday, the White House denied it. Energy Secretary Chris Wright said nobody is considering a flat ban. He has warned one could raise gasoline and jet-fuel prices. The talks now focus on other ways to keep more diesel in the country.

Mr. Wright has said he prefers voluntary steps by fuel companies to government orders.

WHY IT MATTERS HERE

Diesel moves nearly everything we buy by truck, and it heats many homes in the Northeast. High diesel prices show up later in grocery bills and delivery costs.

THE QUESTION WE'RE FOLLOWING

Do diesel prices ease this winter without an export ban?

U.S. · CHINA

Xi comes to the White House with a trade truce on the clock

Thursday's summit is the second meeting between the two leaders this year.

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived Wednesday for talks with President Trump. Their truce, reached last year in Busan, South Korea, ended tariffs that had topped 100 percent. It has just been extended to January 10.

Washington wants rare earths, the minerals inside magnets, phones and weapons. China controls about 90 percent of rare-earth magnet production. Boeing orders and farm purchases are also on the table.

China has promised to buy at least \$17 billion a year in American farm goods through 2028, and to order 200 Boeing jets. Mr. Trump has talked about as many as 750.

HOW BEIJING SEES IT

China wants U.S. limits on technology exports delayed, fewer U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, and a clear American statement opposing Taiwan's independence.

THE QUESTION WE'RE FOLLOWING

Does the January 10 deadline bring a bigger deal, or another extension?