

SHARE	
सेंसेक्स	: 75,838.36
निफ्टी	: 23,045.30
SARAFI	
सोना	: 7,630
चांदी	: 104.00
(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)	

BRIEF NEWS

सैफ के आवास पर पुलिस ने क्राइम सीन किया रिक्रिएट

MUMBAI : मंगलवार को फिल्म अभिनेता सैफ अली खान पर हमला मामले की जांच कर रही पुलिस ने उनके आवास पर जाकर क्राइम सीन रिक्रिएट किया। इसके बाद सैफ अली के आवास पर चारों तरफ से ग्रील लगाई गई और सीसीटीवी कैमरे भी लगाए गए। मंगलवार को लीलावती अस्पताल से छुट्टी मिलने के बाद सैफ अली खान अपने आवास पर पहुंचे हैं, इसलिए मुंबई पुलिस आज ही सैफ अली खान का बयान भी दर्ज कर सकती है। मामले की छानबीन कर रही बांद्रा पुलिस स्टेशन की टीम हमलावर को लेकर सैफ अली खान के आवास पर पहुंची। हमलावर किस तरह सैफ के घर में घुसा था, उस क्राइम सीन को रिक्रिएट किया गया। इसके बाद पुलिस आरोपित को लेकर नेशनल कॉलेज बस स्टॉप पर फिर बाद में बांद्रा स्टेशन तक ले गई। हमलावर मोहम्मद शरीफुल इस्लाम शहजाद 24 जनवरी तक पुलिस की कस्टडी में हैं। पुलिस टीम उससे गहन पूछताछ कर रही है।

छत्तीसगढ़ मुठभेड़ में अब तक 16 नक्सलियों के शव बरामद

RAIPUR : छत्तीसगढ़ के गरियाबंद जिले के छत्तीसगढ़-ओडिशा बॉर्डर पर स्थित भालू डिग्री के जंगल में सुरक्षा बलों और नक्सलियों के बीच हुई मुठभेड़ में बड़ी कामयाबी मिलने की संभावना बताई जा रही है। इस मुठभेड़ में एक करोड़ के इनामी नक्सली जयराम उर्फ चलपती सहित 16 के मारे जाने की राप्पुर संभाग के आईजी ने पुष्टि की है। इन सभी 16 नक्सलियों के शव और हथियार बरामद किए जा चुके हैं। इस मुठभेड़ में अब तक 20 से अधिक नक्सलियों के मारे जाने की खबर है। इसमें एक जवान भी घायल हुआ है, जिसे एयरलिफ्ट कर रायपुर लाया गया है। रविवार की रात से शुरू हुई मुठभेड़ में मंगलवार सुबह तक 16 नक्सलियों को मारे जाने की पुष्टि हुई है। मुठभेड़ अभी खत्म नहीं हुई है।

असम, मेघालय व प. बंगाल में 4.1 तीव्रता का भूकंप

NEW DELHI : मंगलवार को मेघालय के साउथ वेस्ट खासी हिल्स इलाके में भूकंप के झटके महसूस किए गए। इस भूकंप की तीव्रता 4.1 तीव्रता रही। मेघालय के अलावा असम और पश्चिम बंगाल के कुछ हिस्सों में भी महसूस किए गए हैं। जिससे लोगों में क्षणिक भय का माहौल बन गया और लोग घरों से बाहर निकल आए।

स्पेशल स्किल अटैक प्रक्रिया के बीच 2 दिन में तैयार करते फार्वर्ड ऑपरेटिंग बेस

लाजवाब रणनीति से काम करते हैं सीआरपीएफ के जवान

PHOTON NEWS @ RESEARCH DESK:

हमारे सेंट्रल रिजर्व फोर्स यानी केंद्रीय सुरक्षा बल (सीआरपीएफ) के जांबाज जवान विशेष परिस्थितियों में विशेष कौशल के साथ खास रणनीति अख्तियार कर अपने टारगेट को अंजाम देते हैं। देश के भीतर नक्सलवाद की समस्या को समाप्त करने के अभियान में उनकी भूमिका सर्वोपरि है। अपडेट जानकारी के अनुसार, इसकी विशेष इकाई 'कोबरा', जिसे 'जंगल वॉरफेयर' में एक्स्पर्ट माना जाता है, गृह मंत्री के भरोसे पर खरा उतरने में हर तरह से एक्टिव हैं। जैसा कि हम जानते हैं, केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने दावा किया है कि मार्च 2026 तक नक्सलवाद को देश से पूरी तरह खत्म कर दिया जाएगा। इस अभियान को पूरा करने के लिए जवान जी- जान से लगे हुए हैं। बताया जाता है कि कोबरा व सीआरपीएफ के सहयोग से सुरक्षा बलों ने विभिन्न राज्यों के नक्सल प्रभावित इलाकों में 289 नए कैप खोले हैं। केवल 10-15 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर दो-दो सुरक्षा कैप या 'फॉरवर्ड ऑपरेटिंग बेस' स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं।

केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने मार्च 2026 तक नक्सलियों के खात्मे का ख्वामे का ख्वामे है लक्ष्य

10-15 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर स्थापित किए जा रहे हैं दो-दो सुरक्षा कैप

भय के कारण अब अटक से बचने के लिए छोटी टीम में सिमटते जा रहे नक्सली, जंगल वॉरफेयर में कुशल 'कोबरा' के जवानों को सौंप गई है विशेष जिम्मेदारी

विभिन्न राज्यों के नक्सल प्रभावित इलाकों में सुरक्षा बलों ने खोले हैं 289 नए कैप

आईईडी इलास्ट और यूबीजीएल अटक के जोखिम का सामना करते हैं जवान

नाथ तरीके से गांधीगो की करते हैं मदद लाख होती है लोकल मशीनरी उठावाव प्रभावित जिलों की तादाद में आई कमी

हाईकोर्ट ने स्पष्ट किया- अपने अधीनस्थ पदाधिकारी को नहीं कर सकते अपमानित

● चार्ज मेमो और विभागीय कार्रवाई शुरू करने की चुनौती देते हुए अपीलकर्ता ने दायर की थी याचिका

● एसएसआई के सामने एक इंस्पेक्टर की जाति के बारे में टिप्पणी करने का मामला

● अपील खारिज होने के बाद सिंगल बेंच के आदेश को डबल बेंच में दी गई चुनौती



मौजूदा मामले में नरमी की जरूरत नहीं

सुनवाई के दौरान अदालत ने कहा कि हम यह भी नजरअदाज नहीं कर सकते कि अपीलकर्ता सीआईएसएफ में एक कर्मचारी था, जो एक अनुशासित बल है। जब आरोप गंभीर हो, जैसा कि मौजूदा मामले में है, तो नरमी की जरूरत नहीं है। अपीलकर्ता पर सीआईएसएफ के सहायक कमांडेंट के पद पर रहने के दौरान आरोप लगाया गया था कि उन्होंने एक

एसएसआई के सामने एक इंस्पेक्टर की जाति (एससी) के बारे में टिप्पणी करके वर्ष 2008 में कदवाच का कार्य किया था। वर्ष 2009 में उन्होंने फिर से अपने कार्यालय में उसी व्यक्ति पर अपमानित करने के इरादे से एक अन्य एसएसआई के सामने उसकी जाति का उल्लेख करते हुए अपमानजनक और डराने वाली टिप्पणी की।

रिटायरमेंट के बाद भी जारी रहेगी जांच

कोर्ट ने कहा कि अपीलकर्ता सीआईएसएफ से सेवानिवृत्त हो गया, लेकिन उसे सुचित किया गया कि केंद्रीय सिविल सेवा (पेंशन) नियम, 1972 के नियम 9 के तहत उसकी सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद भी उसके खिलाफ जांच जारी रहेगी। चार्ज मेमो और विभागीय कार्रवाई शुरू करने की चुनौती देते हुए अपीलकर्ता ने एक याचिका दायर की थी। अपीलकर्ता के खिलाफ आरोप साबित हुए हैं और स्थायी आधार पर मासिक पेंशन में 20 प्रतिशत की कटौती और उसकी पूरी ग्रेयुटी जब्त करने का जुमाना लगाया गया है। इसके बाद अपीलकर्ता ने विभागीय अपील दायर की, लेकिन उसे खारिज कर दिया गया। अपीलीय प्राधिकारी के आदेश के खिलाफ उनकी अपील भी खारिज कर दी गई। जिसके बाद सिंगल बेंच को आदेश को डबल बेंच में चुनौती दी गई।

अन्य 17 प्रस्तावों को भी राज्य मंत्रिपरिषद की ओर से दी गई मंजूरी

राज्यकर्मियों का होगा स्वास्थ्य बीमा, स्टेट कैबिनेट से हरी झंडी

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

मंगलवार को मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन की अध्यक्षता में झारखंड कैबिनेट की बैठक हुई। इसमें कुल 18 महत्वपूर्ण प्रस्तावों को मंजूरी दी गई। इनमें राज्य के विकास और प्रशासनिक सुधारों से जुड़े कई अहम निर्णय शामिल हैं। राज्यकर्मियों के स्वास्थ्य बीमा प्रस्ताव को सरकार ने मंजूरी दे दी। वहीं इसके लिए झारखंड सरकार ने टाटा एआइजी जेनरल इंश्योरेंस कंपनी के साथ करार किया है। इसके तहत राज्यकर्मियों और पेंशनरों को पांच लाख रुपये तक इलाज की सुविधा दी जाएगी। वहीं गंभीर बीमारियों में 10 लाख तक का इलाज कराया जा सकता है। इसके लिए राज्य सरकार की आकस्मिक निधि से 150 करोड़ रुपये का उपयोग किया जाएगा। बता दें कि बीमा योजना में अब तक 2 लाख कर्मियों का

पेंशनर को भी हेल्थ इंश्योरेंस का लाभ, 10 लाख तक का इलाज संभव

● अधिवक्ता कल्याण कोष के लिए मिले 12.10 करोड़ रुपये

● दुमका एयरपोर्ट से शुरू होगी उड़ान, एयर इंडिया से एमओयू को मिली मंजूरी

● पुलिस अनुसंधानकर्ता के मोबाइल खरीदने के प्रस्ताव को किया गया मंजूर

● माध्यमिक स्कूलों में कंप्यूटर शिक्षा के लिए 94 करोड़ 50 लाख रुपये की स्वीकृति



राज्य का एक और एयरपोर्ट होगा चालू

कैबिनेट ने दुमका एयरपोर्ट से नियमित उड़ान सेवा शुरू करने के लिए एयरपोर्ट ऑथोरिटी आफ इंडिया के साथ एमओयू पर हस्ताक्षर करने के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी। राज्य सरकार ने चतरा में एक विशेष न्यायालय के गठन के प्रस्ताव को

मंजूरी दी, जो स्थानीय न्यायिक सेवाओं को सुदृढ़ करेगा और प्रशासनिक कार्यों में सुधार लाएगा। राज्य के विभिन्न अस्पतालों के लिए नए पदों के सृजन के प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दी गई। यह स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं को बेहतर बनाने में मदद करेगा।

रजिस्ट्रेशन किया जा चुका है। सालाना एकमुश्त 6000 रुपये कर्मियों को इस योजना के तहत प्रीमियम का भुगतान करना होगा।

देवघर एयरपोर्ट में जबरन घुसने और विमान उड़ाने का दबाव बनाने का मामला

सांसद निशिकांत व मनोज को 'सुप्रीम' राहत

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI :

भाजपा सांसद निशिकांत दुबे और मनोज के खिलाफ सीआईडी की जांच नहीं होगी। इस संबंध में झारखंड हाई कोर्ट के जस्टिस के.एस.एल. को सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बरकरार रखा है। इस प्रकार देवघर एयरपोर्ट में कथित तौर पर जबरन घुसने और विमान उड़ाने का दबाव बनाने के मामले में सुप्रीम कोर्ट से दोनों सांसदों को बड़ी राहत मिली है। अदालत ने झारखंड हाईकोर्ट के आदेश को चुनौती देने वाली राज्य सरकार की याचिका को खारिज कर दिया। अदालत ने उनके खिलाफ झारखंड सीआईडी की तरफ से की रही जांच रद्द करने के हाईकोर्ट के फैसले को सही ठहराया है।

झारखंड हाई कोर्ट के फैसले को ख्वा बरकरार, नहीं होगी सीआईडी जांच



दो जजों की बेंच ने दिया जजमेंट

अपने कमेंट्स में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के जस्टिस अभय एस ओका और जस्टिस मनमोहन की बेंच ने फैसला देते हुए कहा कि अगर इस मामले में कोई फैसला बनता भी है, तो वह एयरक्राफ्ट

एक्ट के तहत बनता है। इस एक्ट का मामला केंद्र सरकार के तहत आने वाले डीजीसीए को देखा होना है। इसमें राज्य सरकार की सीआईडी का कोई काम नहीं।

रद्द हो चुकी है एफआईआर

बता दें कि बीते 13 मार्च 2023 को झारखंड हाईकोर्ट में इस मामले में सुनवाई हुई थी। जहां जस्टिस संजय कुमार द्विवेदी की अदालत ने कुंद्रा थाने में दर्ज एफआईआर को निरस्त कर दिया था। ऐसा करने से देवघर एयरपोर्ट मामले में सांसद निशिकांत दुबे, उनके दो बेटे, सांसद मनोज तिवारी और भाजपा नेता कपिल



मिश्रा सहित 9 लोगों को राहत मिली थी। राज्य सरकार हाईकोर्ट के फैसले के खिलाफ सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहुंची थी। जहां आज अदालत ने फैसला सुनाया।



अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने ब्रिक्स देशों पर 100 प्रतिशत शुल्क लगाने की दी चेतावनी

NEW DELHI : अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने फिर से चेतावनी दी कि अगर ब्रिक्स समूह के देश अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार के लिए अमेरिकी डॉलर की जगह किसी दूसरी मुद्रा को लाने के लिए कोई कदम उठाते हैं, तो वह उन पर 100 प्रतिशत शुल्क लगाएंगे। ब्रिक्स देशों में भारत भी शामिल है। ट्रंप ने सोमवार को अमेरिका के 47वें राष्ट्रपति के रूप में पाण्य ली। उन्होंने कहा, अगर ब्रिक्स देश ऐसा करना चाहते हैं तो ठीक है, लेकिन हम उनके अमेरिका के साथ व्यापार पर कम से कम 100 प्रतिशत शुल्क लगाने जा रहे हैं। ट्रंप ने कहा कि अगर ये देश वैश्विक व्यापार में डॉलर के इस्तेमाल को कम करने के बारे में सोचते भी हैं तो उन पर 100 प्रतिशत शुल्क लगाया जा सकता है। ब्रिक्स देश देशों - रूस, भारत, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका, मिस्र, इथियोपिया, इंडोनेशिया, ईरान और संयुक्त अरब अमीरात का एक अंतर-सरकारी संगठन है।

● पिछले साल दिसंबर में भी इसी प्रकार का अप्रत्याशित गया था लहजा

● रूस, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका और ईरान के साथ ब्रिक्स देशों में भारत भी शामिल है

ट्रेनी डॉक्टर के रेप-मर्डर केस में हाईकोर्ट पहुंची गवर्नमेंट

बंगाल सरकार के एडवोकेट जनरल किशोर दत्ता ने याचिका में कहा- हो फांसी की सजा

KOLKATA : पश्चिम बंगाल की राजधानी कोलकाता आरजी कर अस्पताल में रेप और मर्डर के दोषी संजय रॉय को सियालदह कोर्ट ने उम्रकैद की सजा सुनाई है। इस फैसले के खिलाफ ममता सरकार मंगलवार को कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट पहुंच गई। बंगाल सरकार की ओर से एडवोकेट जनरल किशोर दत्ता ने सियालदह कोर्ट के फैसले के खिलाफ याचिका लगाई। इसमें कहा- दोषी संजय रॉय को उम्रकैद की सजा सही नहीं है। उसे फांसी की सजा होनी चाहिए। कलकत्ता हाईकोर्ट के जस्टिस देबांग्शु बसक ने याचिका स्वीकार कर ली है। हालांकि, इसकी सुनवाई कब शुरू होगी, इसकी अभी जानकारी सामने नहीं आई है। सियालदह कोर्ट के जज अनिर्बान



दास ने सोमवार, दोपहर 2:45 बजे सजा सुनाते हुए कहा था, 'यह रेपरेस्ट आफ रेपेर मामला नहीं है। इसलिए मौत की सजा नहीं दी सकती।' इसके बाद पश्चिम बंगाल की सीएम ममता बनर्जी ने सोशल मीडिया पर लिखा- मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि यह रेपरेस्ट आफ रेपेर मामला है, जिसके लिए मौत की सजा मिलनी चाहिए।

तुर्किये के होटल में आग लगने से 66 लोगों की चली गई जान, 51 झुलसे



NEW DELHI @ PTI

मंगलवार को तुर्क्रे के उत्तर पश्चिमी तुर्किये में स्थित एक स्की रिजॉर्ट के होटल में लगी भीषण आग की चपेट में आकर 66 लोगों की जान चली गई। 51 अन्य घायल हो गए। घायलों को अस्पताल में भर्ती कराया गया है। अधिकारियों ने यह जानकारी दी। अधिकारियों के अनुसार, बोल्सु प्रांत के कार्तलकाया रिजॉर्ट में 12 मंजिला ग्रैंड कार्तल होटल के रेस्तरां में तड़के करीब साढ़े तीन बजे आग लग गई। आग लगने के कारणों की जांच की जा रही है। सरकारी अनादोलु समाचार एजेंसी ने गवर्नर अब्दुलअजीज आयदीन के हवाले से बताया कि घबराहट में इमारत से कूदने की वजह से दो पीढ़ियों की मौत हो गई। निजी एनटीवी टेलीविजन ने अपनी खबर में बताया कि कुछ लोगों ने चादरों और कंबलों के सहारे अपने कमरों से की नीचे उतरने की कोशिश की। आयदीन ने बताया कि होटल में 234 मेहमान उठ रहे थे।

- घटनास्थल पर भेजे गए दमकल के 30 ट्रक और 28 एंबुलेंस
- सभी घायलों को तत्काल अस्पताल में किया गया भर्ती
- आग लगने की घटना के समय होटल में मौजूद थे 234 मेहमान
- इमारत से कूदने की वजह से दो पीढ़ियों की हुई मौत
- कुछ लोगों ने चादरों और कंबलों के सहारे अपने कमरों से की नीचे उतरने की कोशिश
- सरकार की ओर से नियुक्त 6 अभियोजकों ने आग लगने के कारणों की शुरु की जांच

20 मेहमानों को निकलने में की मदद

होटल में स्की प्रशिक्षक नेकमी केपसेट्टुन ने बताया कि जिस वक्त आग लगी, उस समय वह सो रहे थे। घटना के बाद वह इमारत से बाहर भागे। उन्होंने एनटीवी टेलीविजन को बताया कि इसके बाद उन्होंने होटल से करीब 20 मेहमानों को बाहर निकालने में मदद की। उन्होंने कहा कि होटल में धुआं भर गया था,

जिससे मेहमानों के लिए आग से बचने का रास्ता ढूँढना मुश्किल हो गया। स्की प्रशिक्षक ने हाएनटीवी टेलीविजन को बताया, मैं अपने कुछ छात्रों से संपर्क नहीं कर पा रहा हूँ। मुझे उम्मीद है कि वे ठीक होंगे। टेलीविजन पर दिखाए गए दृश्यों में होटल की छत और ऊपरी मंजिलों में आग लगी हुई दिख रही है।

जय बापू, जय भीम, जय संविधान कार्यक्रम आयोजित

प्रियंका गांधी 'स्त्री शक्ति' राहुल 'युवा शक्ति' : खड़गे

BELAGAVI @ PTI :

मंगलवार को कांग्रेस अध्यक्ष मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने लोकसभा सदस्य प्रियंका गांधी वाद्रा की तुलना अंग्रेजों के खिलाफ लड़ने वाली विभूतियों- किन्नर रानी चेन्नम्मा और 'झांसी की रानी' लक्ष्मी बाई से की और कहा कि वह 'स्त्री शक्ति' का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। उन्होंने राहुल गांधी को 'युवा शक्ति' का प्रतीक बताया। यहां 'गांधी भारत' कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए खड़गे ने कहा कि कांग्रेस ने 1924 में महात्मा गांधी की अध्यक्षता में बेलगावी में हुए कांग्रेस के एक मात्र अधिवेशन के 100 साल पूरे होने के उपलक्ष्य



राजीव गांधी की हत्या के बाद प्रियंका ने ही परिवार को संभाला

में यह कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया है। उन्होंने कहा, अगर कोई किन्नर गांधी की अध्यक्षता में बेलगावी में हुए कांग्रेस के एक मात्र अधिवेशन के 100 साल पूरे होने के उपलक्ष्य

Consumers Beware: Make sure children wear helmets

Last fortnight, a 10-year-old boy, Khagendra, died in a road accident while being taken to school by his father on his two-wheeler in Whitefield, Bengaluru. The father survived the collision with an SUV but suffered serious injuries. Both were not wearing helmets. Such tragic incidents involving children on two-wheelers, particularly while on way to school or returning from school, are many. In October last year, six-year-old Nandini Shakya died and four others, including three minor girls, suffered injuries when the motorbike on which they were returning home from school was hit by a speeding truck in Noida. As per the Motor Vehicles Act, only two persons are permitted to travel on a two-wheeler, but here, there were five. And the girls were not wearing crash helmets, mandated under the law.

I quote these two accidents to draw attention to the urgent need to ensure the safety of the most susceptible group of passengers on the road — children, particularly while travelling on the most vulnerable mode of transport in the country, the two-wheelers. Given the high percentage of road accident fatalities among two-wheeler riders, children should not be travelling on them at all! However, keeping in mind the Indian reality, the Motor Vehicles Act and Rules permit them to travel on two-wheelers, but with some safety stipulations. If they are above four years, they must wear a helmet conforming to Indian Standards, formulated and enforced by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Helmets are mandatory even for children aged nine months to four years, except that the parents have an option of using a crash helmet with an ISI mark or bicycle helmets complying with American or European standards, depending on the age of the child. Children who are above nine months and under four must also wear safety harnesses and be strapped to the driver of the vehicle. And the speed of the vehicle should not exceed 40 km per hour. However, none of these safety stipulations are being strictly enforced, exposing young children to great risks. Since many schools do not provide buses for the transportation of pupils, and in most Indian cities and towns, pavements are either non-existent or in a state of neglect, parents drop them to school and pick them up on two-wheelers and the children are invariably not wearing any helmet. Studies have revealed that even in large cities, only about 7 per cent of the children wear helmets, and, even here, only 4.5 per cent are ISI-marked.

Even more shocking is the sight of young mothers riding pillion on two-wheelers and carrying sleeping babies in their arms! In case of an accident, the child is far more vulnerable than adults and exposing an infant to such risks is a violation of the child's right to safety and life guaranteed under the Constitution. As we observe the 'National Road Safety Month' this January, it is critical to address these issues concerning child safety through consumer education and stringent law enforcement. Harnesses for young children are available in the market and state governments must ensure that they are used as required under the law. It is also essential to make sure that bicycle helmets sold in the market conform to the stipulated standards. Use of helmets for children should also be encouraged through tax incentives and subsidies that make them highly affordable. Having said that, I do feel that the minimum age for a child on a two-wheeler should be raised from nine to 12 months, given the fact that a baby is not very stable at nine months and its neck may not be strong enough to wear a helmet. It is also critical to ensure that non-standard, non-ISI-marked helmets are not sold in the country, through stringent implementation of the Quality Control order that makes ISI certification mandatory for helmets.

Consumers, in turn, should check the authenticity of the ISI mark on the helmet they wish to buy, using the BIS Care App or the BIS website — manakonline.in. At present, about 150 helmet manufacturers have a valid licence to use the ISI mark. Out of 1,68,491 road accident fatalities in the country reported in 2022, persons travelling on two-wheelers constituted 74,897 or 44.5 per cent.

Sustainable farm income key to food security

The letter by Nobel and World Food Prize winners is silent on the biggest scourge — the failure of markets to raise farm incomes the world over.



THE Cambridge dictionary describes moonshot as a bold plan to do something impossible. So, when more than 150 Nobel laureates and World Food Prize winners sign an open letter calling for “planet-friendly moonshot efforts leading to substantial, not just incremental, leaps in food production” — which at the present pace appears almost impossible to meet the enormous challenge of feeding the world by 2050 — the loud and clear warning comes as a timely wake-up call. “We are not on track to meet the future food needs. Not even close,” the letter has warned. It has been signed by some of the greatest figures of our times — Nobel laureates such as the 14th Dalai Lama, Joseph Stiglitz, Kailash Satyarthi, Robert Huber, Daron Acemoglu and Sir John E Walker, and World Food Prize recipients like Dr Gurdev S Khush, Per Pinstrup-Andersen, Rattan Lal and Hans R Herren. “As leaders of science and innovation, we ask you to join us in sounding the alarm, raising collective ambitions, and advocating for research moonshots to ensure the world's food and nutrition security,” the letter concludes. At a time when the world already produces enough food to meet the requirement of 9.8 billion people by 2050, it only shows that food deficiencies — there are close to 800 million people living in hunger — are not because of any shortfall in production. The food deficiencies are an outcome of faulty policies. The letter entitled 'Hunger's Tipping Point' makes no mention of the global thrust on feeding cattle and diverting food for automobiles but does talk of

"increasingly common extreme weather events associated with climate change", the food and nutrition crisis is only going to worsen by the middle of this century. As the letter rightly adds, additional factors such as soil erosion and land degradation, biodiversity loss, water shortages and conflicts will drag the productivity down. This is certainly a cause for worry. Although the letter does make a mention of maize, a staple food for Africa, which is under threat from future predictions of decreasing yield, meeting the global challenges of food and nutrition security cannot be addressed till the world realises the urgent need to join hands and collaborate. In the US, for instance, 44 per cent of the domestic maize production is diverted for ethanol production, even as Africa faces shortages. Similarly, a report in the New Scientist journal (March 14, 2022) shows that 90 million tonnes of foodgrains was diverted for ethanol, and the European Union utilises 12 million tonnes, including wheat and maize, for feeding automobiles. The EU also diverted 3.5 million tonnes of palm oil to diesel production. All this was happening when the global supplies of staple food were hit by the Russia-Ukraine war. If only 50 per cent of the biofuel production was reduced in the US and EU, the grain saved could have met the entire food shortages created by the war. Among the transformation efforts required, the letter calls for enhancement of photosynthesis in crops like wheat and rice, biological nitrogen fixation of major cereals, transformation of annual crops to perennial ones,

diversification of the cropping systems and the creation of nutrient-rich foods from microorganisms and fungi. What has to be acknowledged is that “the benefit of enabling healthy, productive and secure lives for billions of people has returns that flow broadly through the global economy,” says the letter. While there is enough evidence to show that investment in agricultural research has multiple returns, the report calls for “society sponsored research to be the foundation of the innovation that drives a successful food system of the future”. What remains unclear is whether the emphasis is essentially on state-sponsored research or dominance of private research. The letter speaks of multiple market failures when it comes to providing people with healthy, cost-effective and sustainable diets. It does point to “market failures” within appropriate regulatory and “pricing” frameworks, but makes a mention of only carbon and water prices and remains conspicuously silent on the biggest scourge — the failure of markets to enhance farm incomes everywhere in the world.

In my understanding, unless strenuous efforts are made to ensure sustainable farm livelihoods, it may be difficult to meet the challenges of future food and nutrition security. For example, while the US Farm Bill — which provides for budgetary provisions to farmers and farming for the next five years, with the last one ending in September 2024 — has made a provision of \$1.8 trillion, the US is expecting one in five farmers to quit agriculture this year. And this is despite the immediate promise of \$10 billion to offset the loss farmers suffered from low commodity prices and higher cost of production. The new Farm Bill 2024 is awaiting clearance. In the EU, after the farmers' protest in 24 countries in the first four months of last year, an assured farm income has emerged as a common thread. Only a fortnight back, the small farmers' federation in France, the Confédération Paysanne, called for agriculture income to not being left as adjustment variable of the agricultural food supply chain. It denounced the excess margins downstream to the detriment of farmers. This means that while all other stakeholders in the food chain walk away with hefty profits, the farmer is left to survive at the margins. In India, in the midst of the farmers' protest 2.0 that has been going on for over 11 months at the Punjab-Haryana border, a recent news report said the market prices for seven of the 14 kharif crops are hovering at 12 to 26 per cent below the minimum support price (MSP). Over the years, farm incomes have been stagnating or sliding.

The challenge to feed 1.5 billion additional mouths in 2050 is surely possible. But the action plan should work on a moonshot approach that should first turn farming into a viable and profitable enterprise.

Custodial hell

Conviction of HP cops sends strong message

THE conviction of IGP Zahur Haider Zaidi and seven other policemen in a custodial death case serves as a grim reminder of the tragic events that unfold when cops take the law into their own hands. The Kotkhai gangrape-murder of a schoolgirl had jolted the peaceful hill state of Himachal Pradesh in 2017. The horrifying crime led to a public outrage that prompted the state government to set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by Zaidi. The SIT managed to arrest six suspects but it came under sharp scrutiny itself when one of them died in police custody. Now, a special CBI court has found the probe team's members guilty of murder, torture in police custody for extracting a confession, fabrication of evidence and other serious offences.

Under pressure to produce ‘quick results’, the SIT crossed one red line after another. It's true that public anger over the gruesome gangrape-murder had reached a crescendo, but this was not reason enough



for the cops to resort to ‘instant justice’. This is a cautionary tale for police personnel around the country who let their overzealousness get the better of them during investigations. They are emboldened by the acceptance of violence as par for the course at police stations. A suspect in a lock-up often finds himself at the receiving end of police brutality. In 2021, then Chief Justice of India NV Ramana had rightly stated that police stations posed the biggest threat to human rights as custodial torture and police atrocities were prevalent despite constitutional guarantees. Several states and UTs continue to drag their feet on implementing the Supreme Court's order about installing CCTV cameras at police stations. The onus is on the respective police top brass to ensure that there is no laxity on this count. It is a must to crack down on cops who brazenly abuse their authority. At stake is the credibility of the law enforcers.

The wise old owl, sentinel of the night

The complex, and often conflicting, relationship between humans and owls ranges from reverence to superstition



— migrates to India in the winter from its breeding grounds in the Taiga and Tundra regions of the Northern Hemisphere. It also breeds in the corresponding latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere. Populations from the Northern Hemisphere use the Central Asian Flyway,

passing through countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Unlike the flocks of songbirds on the same migration route, the Short-Eared Owl is a solitary traveller, covering more than 1,000 km in a single flight over land and oceans, with occasional halts to rest and

hunt for food. It enters India through Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab before settling in the grasslands, scrublands, agricultural fields, and wetlands in North, West and Central India. Since the Short-Eared Owl is a winter visitor to our country, we don't observe its courtship display or nesting behaviour. However, in its breeding areas, it is a ground nester. The female excavates a shallow hollow in the ground, which she lines with stones and leaves. She can lay anywhere from five to 14 eggs at a time, which are solely incubated by her. During this period, if she needs to leave the nest for any reason, she defecates on the eggs, covering them with foul-smelling faeces, which helps keep predators at bay. Although owls are generally nocturnal or crepuscular, the Short-Eared Owl is one of the few that can hunt during the day as well. Its silent, gliding flight low over the ground can come as a surprise to its quarry. Interestingly, it clips off the wings of its avian prey before consuming it and then spits out the pellets of undigested parts. Asian Barred Owl. The complex, and often conflicting, relationship between humans and owls ranges from reverence to superstition. In many cultures, owls are revered as symbols of wisdom, knowledge, prosperity and good fortune. In others, they are believed to be harbingers of death and bad luck, foretelling doom. Owls play a crucial role in the ecosystem as apex predators, keeping rodent populations in check and maintaining balance in their habitats. Unfortunately, like all other wild species, they face the dangers of losing the habitats that are essential to their survival. The story of the owl is one of resilience and adaptation. Despite the challenges they face, owls continue to captivate the human imagination. Their haunting calls in the silence of the night and their mysterious behaviour bring endless fascination to those fortunate enough to encounter them.

Maoist With 1 Crore Bounty Among 20 Killed, Amit Shah Says "Major Success"

►Jayaram Reddy, a senior Maoist leader also known as Chalapati, was killed in an encounter in a forest along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border.

New Delhi. A Maoist carrying a Rs 1 crore bounty was among 20 killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district last night with Union Home Minister Amit Shah calling the operation a "major success". Jayaram Reddy, a senior Maoist leader also known as Chalapati, was killed in the exchange of fire that took place in a forest along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border.

A joint team of security personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), CoBRA from Chhattisgarh and Special Operation Group (SOG) from Odisha were involved in the operation. The operation was launched based on intelligence about the presence of Maoists in the Kularighat reserve forest of Chhattisgarh, just five kilometres from the border of Odisha's Nuapada district.

A large cache of firearms, ammunition and IEDs, including a self-loading rifle, were recovered from the encounter site, an official said. A massive search operation is underway in the area.

Amit Shah On Maoist Encounter

Amit Shah, who has vowed to eradicate Maoists



by March 2026, called the encounter "another mighty blow to Naxalism". "Our security forces achieved major success towards building a Naxal-free Bharat. The CRPF, SoG Odisha, and Chhattisgarh Police neutralised 14 Naxalites in a joint operation along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border," he posted on X. "With our resolve for a Naxal-free India and the joint efforts of our security forces, Naxalism is breathing its last today," Mr Shah added. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also praised the security forces and said that under the double-engine government (the BJP government at the Centre and the state), Chhattisgarh will get rid of the Maoists by

March 2026. The security forces have been "continuously achieving success" and "moving rapidly" towards fulfilling the target, he said.

"This success of the soldiers is commendable. I salute their bravery," Mr Sai posted on X. About 40 Maoists have so far been killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh this year.

Chalapati: The Senior Maoist Killed In Encounter

Chalapati, who was a resident of Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor, was a senior member of the central committee of the Maoists, which is the highest decision-making body within the group. He was known for his activities in the dense forests of Abujhmad in Chhattisgarh's Bastar. Aged around 60, he relocated his base a few months ago due to the increasing frequency of encounters in the Abujhmad area and shifted near the Odisha border, seeking a safer operational zone, sources said. Chalapati played a key role in strategizing and leading operations for the Maoists. His security detail consisted of 8 to 10 personal guards. Chalapati, who carried a reward of Rs 1 crore for information leading to his capture, was considered.

Cops recreate crime scene at Saif's home with attacker, visit Bandra station

NEW DELHI. Mumbai Police on Tuesday recreated the crime scene at Saif Ali Khan's home in Bandra with the accused arrested for stabbing the Bollywood actor inside his apartment on January 16. Meanwhile, a doctor at the Lilavati Hospital, where Saif had been undergoing treatment, confirmed that he would be discharged today. The police spent about an hour inside the actor's 12-storey residence, while trying to understand how the attacker, Mohammad Shariful Islam Shehzad, carried out the crime with the intention of committing a robbery.

The police team, which reached the spot at around 5.30 am, entered the residential building via the front gate, news agency PTI quoted officials as saying. Multiple fingerprints of the attacker were collected from the actor's home, including the bathroom window from where he entered and exited, the duct shaft and the ladder he used to enter from the duct, they said.

Besides the police team, forensic experts were also present on the premises. After recreating the crime scene, the police took the accused to a garden in the building's premises where he allegedly hid for about two hours after the incident and also the Bandra train station, from where he had taken a train to Dadar later that day. The police team then took the accused back to the Bandra police station, where officials are scheduled to interrogate him further.

Shehzad is currently under a five-day police custody.

On January 16, the attacker reportedly entered the actor's home with the intention of committing theft. However, the situation escalated when he was spotted by a house help in the room of Saif's younger son, Jeh.

The staff raised an alarm, prompting Saif to confront the intruder. During the altercation, the actor was stabbed multiple times, including a serious wound near his spine. Saif was rushed to Lilavati Hospital, where doctors performed immediate surgery to take out a piece of knife lodged in his back, as well as to stop leakage of spinal fluid.

On Tuesday morning, Nitin Dange, a neurosurgeon at Lilavati Hospital, confirmed that Saif would be discharged later in the day.

Transgender candidate: Delhi HC seeks police response on protection plea

NEW DELHI. The High Court has issued a notice to the Delhi Police, seeking their response to a petition filed by transgender candidate Rajan Singh, who is contesting Delhi State Assembly elections from Kalkaji.

Singh has requested personal security due to alleged threats to his life during his election campaign.

Justice Vikas Mahajan directed the Delhi Police to respond by January 27. Singh, represented by advocate Subhash Chandra Budhiraja, claims that he successfully filed his nomination for the Kalkaji Assembly seat but has faced intimidation from rival candidates. According to the petition, Singh was threatened on January 15 when unknown individuals, allegedly linked to an opposing party, snatched and tore his electoral roll certificate.

Singh immediately contacted the police, but despite the arrival of a PCR vehicle, no action was taken, and further attempts to seek assistance from local authorities, including the SHO of P.S. Sangam Vihar, were unsuccessful. Singh asserts that these threats have escalated since his candidacy became public, particularly after media coverage. As the only transgender candidate in the race, he argues that he faces unique risks and requires protection while campaigning in his constituency.

He further stressed that, given the prior threats, it is essential for the police to provide him with adequate security, as he did during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign. The petition also highlights that Singh was granted police protection during his previous campaign, which continued till October 14, 2024. Singh now seeks similar security to ensure his safety while running for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. This is not the first time a member from the transgender community is contesting in the polls. As recent as the last Lok Sabha elections, three candidates, including Singh, contested the polls; however, all of them lost their security deposits. Ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, the Delhi High Court has refused to expedite a plea challenging the AAP's election promise of a monthly stipend of Rs 2,100 for women under the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana.

Delhi Assembly polls: Parties in race to hike aids, but field only 12% women

NEW DELHI. Despite a heavy emphasis on women's empowerment ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, the three major political parties have shown little progress in increasing the share of seats allocated to women candidates.

In the 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, AAP, Congress, and BJP fielded a total of 24 women candidates. This year, the number has only risen to 26, indicating a modest improvement that hardly reflects the campaign rhetoric focused on women's issues. With 70 assembly constituencies, a total of 210 candidates have been fielded, of which only 26 are women, making up just 12% of the total candidate pool.

The voter base in Delhi for this election stands at 1.55 crore, with 71.74 lakh women voters and 83.89 lakh male voters. In light of this, all three parties have made significant promises to woo women voters, including announcing women-specific schemes such as financial assistance. AAP has promised Rs 2,100 per month to women, while both BJP and Congress have increased their offer to Rs 2,500. Additionally, all parties have pledged cash assistance to pregnant women and free travel for women on state-run buses.

The city's top election official recently noted a higher number of women registering to vote compared to men ahead of this election. In the 2020 Delhi elections, the voter turnout among women was 62.5%, slightly lower than the 62.6% turnout among men. Meanwhile, in the same year, eight out of nine women candidates fielded by AAP won, contributing to the party's significant victory. This year, AAP has fielded a total of nine women candidates, including Pooja Balyan, Atishi, Pramila Tokas, Preeti Tomar, Bandana Kumari, Sarita Singh, Rakhi, Anjana Parcha, and Dhanwantri Chandela. BJP has nominated nine women candidates, including Neelam Pahalwan, Urmila Gangwal, Kumari Rinku, Rekha Gupta, Deepti Indora, Poonam Sharma, Shweta Saini, Shikha Rai, and Priyanka Gautam. Congress, however, has fielded just eight women candidates this time: Sushma Devi, Aruna Kumari, Krishna Teerth, Harbani Kaur, Ragini Nayak, Pushpa Singh, Alka Lamba, and Areeba Khan. Despite promises aimed at women voters, the overall representation.

Should be barred from contesting polls: Court on bail plea of Delhi riots accused

NEW DELHI. The Supreme Court on Monday deferred the hearing of AIMIM candidate from Mustafabad constituency and Delhi riots accused Tahir Hussain's bail plea ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections.

A bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and Ahsanuddin Amanullah adjourned the hearing due to lack of time, news agency ANI reported. The court will hear the case on Tuesday.

The court, however, noted that all such persons should be barred from contesting elections. "These days, elections are contested from jail... It's easy to win an election by sitting in jail... all such persons should be barred from contesting," it said.

However, Hussain's lawyer said that his is a genuine case. Hussain, a key accused in the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots, is currently in custody on multiple charges, including murder, rioting, and money laundering under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).



He had challenged the Delhi High Court's order, which had denied him interim bail to campaign for the elections. Delhi High Court had granted custody parole to Hussain on January 14 to file to allow him to file his nomination papers from the Mustafabad constituency. However, the court had refused to grant

interim bail to Hussain for the campaign, citing the gravity of the allegations against him. The court highlighted the seriousness of the charges against Hussain, including his alleged involvement as the primary conspirator in the riots which resulted in the deaths of 53 people and significant damage in February 2020.

Instant moksha, Naga sadhu meetups, spirituality... what brought foreigners to Mahakumbh 2025

NEW DELHI. What happens when you are open to all kinds of foreign experiences amid circumstances that are exotic to say the least? Doris Hahnloser, from Zurich, a retired manager of a retail multi-brand family-owned boutique, who has been visiting India since 1985, probably has some kind of an answer.

In the Mahakumbh, Prayagraj, for the first time, she tries to soak in all of it—the spectacle, the spirituality, the contradictions. "In India, I have seen the sane and the other side....," she says delicately. For her, a meeting with the sadhus at the Kumbh—the high-point of the event, along with the Shahi snan—falls in between the two stools. She does not completely understand them but feels "moved" by their life of renunciation; she realises that to them too, her life may seem an aberration, or



just plain different. But she has "felt, seen, and been heard".

From Hahnloser and Atma Prem Giri Maharaj, a Russia-born seer who came under the spotlight this Kumbh as 'Muscular Baba', to the late Steve Jobs' widow Laurene Powell, whose stay at the Niranjini Akhara camp and becoming 'Kamala' has stirred an internet storm, the East-West encounter is a puzzle. It is so for both sides, and this has been visible at the

Kumbh. There have been attempts at identification, and there has been disorientation. Water has wanted to mix with oil.

Rientalism has played no small part in this 'Eastward ho'. "Edward Pococke to Romain Rolland made India the centre of the world. Rolland asserted that the West has derived its gods and ideas from India; Pococke explored the theory that Aryans may have originally travelled from India to Greece, colonised it, and influenced its culture," says Heramb Chaturvedi, retired professor of history, Allahabad University. What is new is the scale of publicity this Kumbh is getting.

Besides what happened serendipitously for many decades, for example, in the sixties, this encounter is now being packaged as religious tourism.

Reply to AAP MLA's bail plea, HC tells state

NEW DELHI. The Delhi High Court on Monday sought a response from the State on a bail plea filed by AAP MLA Naresh Balyan, who was arrested under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA).

Justice Vikas Mahajan issued notice to the Public Prosecutor for the State of Delhi and scheduled the next hearing for January 23. Balyan's arrest on December 4, 2024, followed allegations of his involvement with a criminal syndicate led by gangster Kapil Sangwan. The arrest came



shortly after Balyan secured bail in a separate extortion case the same day. Representing Balyan in the High Court, Senior Advocate Vikas Pahwa argued that there was no concrete evidence against the AAP leader.

Pahwa urged the Court to grant interim relief, highlighting the upcoming Delhi polls and Balyan's role in supporting his wife, who is also contesting in the elections. Earlier this month, the Rouse Avenue Court denied Balyan's bail plea. Judge Kavari Baweja cited sufficient evidence linking Balyan to the organised crime syndicate.

India and France to jointly assess maritime threats in Indian Ocean Region

►India and France underscored the strong maritime partnership between the two nations and their shared commitment to enhancing security in the Indian Ocean Region.

New Delhi. India and France agreed to develop a joint assessment of maritime threats, focusing on piracy, maritime terrorism, smuggling, illegal fishing, cybersecurity risks and marine pollution in the Indian Ocean Region. The commitment was made during the

seventh India-France Maritime Cooperation Dialogue that was held in Delhi on January 14, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement on Monday. The dialogue was co-chaired by Pavan Kapoor, Deputy National Security Advisor, and Alice Rufo, Director General for International Relations and Strategy, Ministry for the Armed Forces, France. Both sides reaffirmed their shared vision for maritime security and emphasised upholding international law, supporting multilateralism through regional organisations, and ensuring respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of navigation. "Building on the joint strategic vision of India-France cooperation in the IOR established in 2018, the dialogue aimed to strengthen

collaboration for free and secure access to sea lanes of communication," the MEA statement said. France welcomed



the participation of the Indian Navy in the Combined Maritime Forces and expressed optimism about India's future leadership roles within the appropriate Combined Task Forces. To enhance cooperation, India and France will bolster information exchange

mechanisms, including the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram and regional centres in Seychelles and Madagascar. They will also explore coordinated surveillance to counter threats to maritime security and strengthen bilateral engagements in the region.

Highlighting their commitment to environmental conservation, India and France pledged to protect marine biodiversity and resources in the Indian Ocean Region, according to the statement. They agreed to continue collaboration under the framework of the United Nations Ocean Conference and further regional efforts in biodiversity and blue economy initiatives as members of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). "This dialogue reaffirmed the mutual

NEWS BOX

Australian Open: After semis berth, Paula Badosa says she considered retiring once

New Delhi. Paula Badosa said that she once contemplated retiring from tennis while struggling with her chronic back issue. On Tuesday, January 21, Badosa made her way through to her maiden Grand Slam semi-final after beating 2023 US Open champion Coco Gauff 7-5, 6-4 in the quarterfinal of the Australian Open at the Rod Laver Arena. After making a comeback from injury last year, Badosa, who became the World No.2 in 2022, found herself out of the top 100. But after beating Gauff, the Spaniard will return to the top 10 when the new rankings come out. The 27-year-old said that, 12 months ago, she did not imagine playing in a Grand Slam semis. "A year ago I was here... I didn't know if I'd have to retire from the sport. I won today. I'm in the semi-finals. I would never think a year later I would be here," Badosa said in the on-court interview. Australian Open 2025, Day 10 Updates Back in the Wimbledon 2023, Badosa had suffered a stress fracture in her back that troubled her for quite some time. She withdrew from the Indian Wells Open 2024 and took cortisone injections to recover during matches. Before the US Open 2024, Badosa talked about her struggles and how she constantly looked for medical support. 'I am a better player'



Badosa started as the underdog against the third-seeded Gauff. At 5-5 in the opening set, Badosa earned a break of serve to come up trumps. In the second set, Badosa dropped her serve twice, but made sure of breaking Gauff's serve thrice to have the last laugh. "I am a bit emotional, overcoming something like this. Today, I wanted to play my best game. Coco, at the beginning, played intense tennis, but I am super proud of the level I gave today. I have been through a lot. In the past, I was one of the best players in the world, but now I am a better player, more matured. I manage my emotions little better," Badosa added. In the semi-final, Badosa will be up against the winner of the clash between World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka and 27th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova.

Sanju Samson sings Bollywood song, gets feedback from Surya in Insta banter

New Delhi. Sanju Samson was the star of India's team dinner on Monday in Kolkata. The Kerala wicketkeeper-batter attempted to sing Pehla Nasha, a popular Bollywood song from the 1991 blockbuster Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, and nailed it. Joining Abhishek Nayar in a mini karaoke session, Sanju Samson enjoyed his rendition of the iconic song, much to the delight of his teammates at the hotel in Kolkata. Captain Suryakumar Yadav was quick to respond, reminding Samson to focus on the T20I series. In a cheeky reply, Suryakumar said Samson would eventually come to Mumbai, but only after finishing auditions in Chennai, Rajkot, and Pune.



Rajkot, Pune audition ke baad (You're coming to Mumbai, but after auditions in Chennai, Rajkot, and Pune)," Suryakumar replied. India will begin their T20I series in Kolkata on Wednesday, 22 January. The series will then move to Chennai, Rajkot, and Pune before concluding with the decider in Pune. Samson was picked as the first-choice wicketkeeper for the T20I series against England. The Kerala star may have missed out on a spot in India's Champions Trophy squad, but he remains a key member of the T20I side, having enjoyed a consistent run in 2024.

Samson scored 436 runs in 13 matches in T20Is last year, smashing three hundreds and one fifty. He struck three hundreds in the span of just five matches, shining with the bat during India's T20I series in South Africa in November 2024. The Indian team arrived in Kolkata over the weekend and began training for the T20I series with a three-day camp at Eden Gardens. It was refreshing to see the team bonding during Monday's dinner, particularly after the difficult tour of Australia, where rumours

Chess World Cup 2025 set to be hosted in India, confirmation soon

While Chennai may be a logical destination to host the 2025 World Cup, it is believed that AICF is cognisant of the need to take the board game to other parts of the country.

CHENNAI. The official announcement may take a few more days but, in reality, India was pencilled in to host the 2025 World Cup by FIDE (chess' governing body) last year itself. "There's always talk with India," Sutoovsky had told select



Indian media on the sidelines of the chess World Championship in Singapore in November. The dates are already announced by FIDE -- between October 31 and November 27. "It's incredibly important for us. We are in constant talks with the All India Chess Federation (AICF), and there's a connection with Tamil Nadu as well. You know that (Arkady) Dvorkovich met (Chief

Minister) M.K. Stalin -- the two met before the Olympiad in Mahabalipuram in 2022. I believe that maybe already in 2025, we will have a very major event in India. I'm not saying in Tamil Nadu, but in India. Going forward, with such a huge interest, it's only logical that India would host more and more top events." While Chennai may be a logical destination to host the 2025 World Cup, a glamorous biennial event

where the top three earn themselves coveted spots in the 2026 edition of the Candidates, it is believed that the All India Chess Federation (AICF) are cognisant of the need to take the board game to other parts of the country. They could well host it in New Delhi or Bengaluru or Ahmedabad or Chennai. When FIDE published the 2025 events calendar on Monday evening, they had India against 2025 edition of the World Cup but the 'India' disappeared soon after. However, this isn't some last minute oversight. "There will be an official announcement in the next 2-3 days," was how one All India Chess Federation (AICF) official put it. "I cannot say much about it till then." It's likely that Magnus Carlsen, the defending champion, will give the tournament a miss. But there will be plenty of other overseas stars in action including Fabiano Caruana, Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Anish Giri. The Indian contingent will be spearheaded by world champion D Gukesh and the likes of Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa. The latter had qualified to the 2024 edition of the Candidates after reaching the final.

U19 Women's T20 World Cup: Vaishnavi Sharma shines with hat-trick, 5 wickets on debut

New Delhi. Left-arm spinner Vaishnavi Sharma became the first bowler to take a hat-trick in the Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup 2025. On Tuesday, January 21, the tweaker had a memorable debut after she took a five-wicket haul and hat-trick in the same match. She finished with figures of 4-1-5-5 against Malaysia in the Group A match against Malaysia at the Bayuemas Oval in Kuala Lumpur. Vaishnavi joined South Africa's Madison Landsman in the list of bowlers with a hat-trick in the history of the tournament. Landsman holds the distinction of becoming the first bowler in the U19 Women's T20 World Cup to take a hat-trick. She achieved the feat in the group stage fixture against Scotland and finished with figures of 4/12 back in 2023.

Vaishnavi, who replaced Sonam Yadav in the playing XI, helped India bowl Malaysia out for 31 in 14.3 overs. She got the wickets of Nur Dania Syuhada and Nuriman Hiyadah to start her spell. But it was after dismissing Nur Ain Binti Roslan, Nur Isma Dania and Siti Nazwah



that she claimed a hat-trick. Vaishnavi got the apt support from fellow left-arm spinner Aayushi Shukla, who had figures of 3.3-1-8-3. Joshiitha VJ, who won the Player of the Match award against the West Indies, got the wicket of opening batter Nuni Farini Safty. Here's the video of Vaishnavi Sharma's hat-trick. India hammer Malaysia On the back of Vaishnavi's spell, India recorded a 10-wicket win over Malaysia. Chasing a target of 32, India romped home in a mere 2.5 overs. Opener Gongadi Trisha scored an unbeaten 27 off 12 balls, laced with five fours. Trisha faltered against the West Indies, but made amends against the hosts. G Kamalini, who went to the Mumbai Indians at 1.60 crore for WPL 2025, stayed not out on four off five balls. With the win, India went to the top of the table in Group A with four points and a net run

KL Rahul or Axar Patel as Delhi Capitals captain? Aakash Chopra names his pick

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Aakash Chopra has shared his views on the ongoing debate regarding the captaincy of Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Capitals (DC). With Rishabh Pant's departure to the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), the choice of leadership has reportedly narrowed down to two contenders—India wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul and all-rounder Axar Patel. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Aakash Chopra delved into the merits of both candidates. Chopra highlighted that KL Rahul's appointment as captain could significantly enhance the brand value of DC. As a seasoned leader with captaincy experience for LSG and Punjab Kings, Rahul brings a wealth of strategic insights and a proven track record of managing high-pressure IPL matches. "Three captains have not yet been announced, and I am wondering what is going to happen there. You might be thinking who will be Delhi's captain. Since we get all sources-led news these days, a lot of reports say that Axar Patel, who has become the Indian team's vice-captain recently, could be the captain there," Aakash Chopra said. "That is a possibility. He is

ready. I, too, advocated that you are taking KL Rahul but it's not mandatory to make him the captain. You have another Indian option



available to you. However, it will be interesting to see what the team thinks. KL Rahul brings a lot of things. He also brings brand value with him, and sometimes franchises think like that also, as to what is better for their setup," he added.

The IPL 2025 mega auction witnessed a significant swap between DC and LSG, with former LSG skipper KL Rahul joining DC and ex-DC captain Rishabh Pant moving to

LSG. While Pant has already been confirmed as the new LSG captain, the decision on Rahul or Axar taking over the reins at DC remains undecided. However, Chopra also acknowledged Axar Patel as a strong contender. Axar, retained by DC for Rs 16.50 crore before the auction, has been an integral part of the franchise. He remains the sole player from the core squad that reached the IPL 2020 final.

Known for his consistency and calm demeanour, Axar has been a pillar for DC in recent years. Previously, Chopra had voiced his support for Axar as captain, pointing out that the all-rounder has been underrated despite his critical contributions to the team. Chopra expressed confidence in Axar's ability to lead, emphasising his tactical awareness and the respect he commands among teammates.

The decision between the experienced KL Rahul and the loyal Axar Patel represents a defining moment for DC as they aim to build a competitive squad for IPL 2025. Both players bring distinct strengths, and the final choice could shape the team's future trajectory in the league. Fans now eagerly await the franchise's official announcement.

Australian Open: Alexander Zverev into the semi-final after win over Tommy Paul

New Delhi German tennis ace and world number 2 Alexander Zverev has advanced to the semi-finals of the Australian Open after overcoming American Tommy Paul in a gripping quarter-final encounter. Zverev secured the victory with a 7-6 (7-1), 7-6 (7-0), 2-6, 6-1 scoreline, in a match that fully lived up to its pre-game excitement. From the opening set, both players showcased their strengths in a high-intensity battle. Zverev's signature power and precision were met with Paul's agility and resilience, creating a captivating contest. The first set went to a nail-biting tiebreaker, where Zverev took control to seize the advantage with a 7-1 win. Paul's exceptional return game, as he led Zverev with 18 return points compared to the German's 14, became most evident in the second set. The American made a strong start, racing to a 4-1 lead in pursuit of a quick turnaround. However, Zverev showed remarkable composure, clawing his way back into the

set and forcing another tiebreaker. Dominating yet again, Zverev clinched the set with a flawless 7-0 tiebreak performance. In the third set, Zverev fully hit his stride, demonstrating why he is ranked



among the world's best. Winning 24 of his 30 first-serve points, he capitalised on a visibly fatigued Paul to take the set 6-2. The momentum firmly in his favour, Zverev carried his dominance into the fourth set, breezing through with a commanding 6-1

Alexander Zverev stormed into the Australian Open semi-finals after a thrilling four-set victory against Tommy Paul. Displaying composure and dominance, Zverev proved why he remains a top contender for the title, awaiting his next challenge against either Djokovic or Alcaraz.

victory to seal the match. The German now awaits the winner of the highly anticipated clash between Carlos Alcaraz and Novak Djokovic. With both players in stellar form, the outcome of their match is expected to be a thrilling showdown, promising an equally challenging semi-final for Zverev. As the tournament edges closer to its conclusion, Zverev's commanding performance has made him one of the favourites to lift the trophy in Melbourne.

Harry Brook appointed England's new white-ball vice captain ahead of India series

England's young rising star Harry Brook has been named as vice captain of the white-ball formats ahead of the series against India.

New Delhi England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced Harry Brook as their new vice-captain of the white-ball formats on Monday, January 20. Brook is counted amongst the rising stars of international cricket due to his magnificent exploits across all three formats. He recently became the number one batter in Tests in December 2024 for the first time and has also put up remarkable performances in both ODIs and T20Is. England didn't name a vice-captain while announcing their squads for the

upcoming India series as Brook was included in both the ODI and the T20I sides. The 25-year-old will join the leadership group of the national side in the upcoming five-match T20I series against India beginning from January 22 in Kolkata. In 20 ODIs played in his career so far, Brook has scored 719 runs at an average of 39.94 and a strike rate of 106.83 with one hundred and five fifties. In T20Is, he's played 39 games and scored 707 runs at an average of 30.73 and a strike rate of 146.07 with three half centuries. Brook was also a part of England's T20 World Cup 2022 triumph in Australia.

Brook's brilliant return to ODIs in 2024 However, the swashbuckling batter didn't have a memorable time in the ODI World Cup the following year, scoring just 169 runs from six innings at an average of



28.16 with one fifty. After a disappointing World Cup campaign, Brook made a remarkable comeback to the 50-over format, finishing as the highest run scorer of the five-match ODI series against Australia in September 2024 with 312 runs from five

innings at an average of 78 with one hundred and two fifties. He also led the team in the five-match series which England lost by 2-3. Having been awarded the responsibility of vice captaincy, Brook will be once again expected to play a crucial role for the team in the T20I, ODI series against India and the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025. England T20I Squad – India Tour: Jos Buttler (c), Rehan Ahmed, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Jamie Smith, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Saqib Mahmood, Phil Salt, Mark Wood. England squad for India ODIs and Champions Trophy 2025: Jos Buttler (Captain), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Jacob Bethell, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Jamie Smith, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Saqib Mahmood, Phil Salt, Mark Wood

Priyanka Chopra

Offers Glimpse Of Prayagraj As She Arrives At Maha Kumbh 2025

Priyanka Chopra never misses out on any opportunity to embrace Indian traditions. Earlier, she was clicked visiting the Ayodhya Ram temple with her daughter Malti Marie and her husband Nick Jonas. Now, she is headed to take a holy dip at the Maha Kumbh 2025. The biggest religious congregations this year began on January 13 and will conclude on February 25. As devotees from across the world arrived in Prayagraj to attend the divine event, Priyanka, too, joined them to participate and seek blessings from deities. Hours ago, Priyanka Chopra posted a clip on her Instagram stories. Looking at the clip, it seemed that the actress was enroute to Maha Kumbh 2025 as she offered a glimpse of the city, recorded from inside a car.

This is not the first time Priyanka Chopra marked her presence at a religious event or visited a temple during her time in India. Last year, Priyanka was spotted at Ram Mandir in Ayodhya with her daughter Malti Marie and husband Nick Jonas. The



photos featuring the trio quickly went viral. A bunch of photos shared by Viral Bhayani saw Priyanka wearing a yellow colour saree and looking beautiful. Nick, on the other hand, opted for a cream colour-embroidered kurta and pajama. The duo posed with the security officials at the temple, showcasing their humble demeanour.

It was just two days back that Priyanka Chopra arrived in India and was captured at Hyderabad airport. The global sensation also dropped a video on Instagram as she flew down from Toronto to Hyderabad via Dubai. In her caption of the post, she wrote ‘Om’ emoticon. However, what caught the attention of her fans was the song that she added to her post. It was from SS Rajamouli directorial RRR.

Soon after the clip went viral, fans started speculating about her comeback to Indian cinema, starring opposite Mahesh Babu in the much-anticipated adventure film, SSMB29, directed by SS Rajamouli. According to an insider close to Pinkvilla, Priyanka was the top choice for the project. The source said, “The film is in the final stages of writing and is all set to go on floors in April 2025. SS Rajamouli was looking for a female lead with a global presence, and who better than Priyanka to play the lead role.” Priyanka Chopra’s last Bollywood film was The Sky Is Pink which was released in 2016.



Shehnaaz Gill’s

Dubai Trip Was All About Good Food And A Game Of Golf

Shehnaaz Gill is a true blue golf enthusiast. The actress loves playing the sport. When not busy with work and vacations, she spends her time with her friends and sometimes playing sports as well. Channeling her inner sportsperson, Shehnaaz recently took some time out to dedicate her time to the sport. How do we know? She posted a bunch of clips on Instagram wherein she is seen playing golf on a playground. Though unsuccessful, her attempt to hit the



ball was praiseworthy. But, she is not one to give up. In a subsequent clip, Shehnaaz Gill tried again and this time, she hit it out of the park. The child-like excitement on her face was truly adorable. For her golf game, the actress wore a red cosy winter wear top with ash grey bootcut jeans and white sneakers. Shehnaaz is most likely Shehnaaz Gill achieved a new milestone as she turned producer

for her next which has remained untitled for a long time. Weeks ago, she unveiled the title, poster and release date. On her Instagram stories, she unveiled the poster of her next, Ikk Kudi wherein she will be seen acting alongside taking charge as the producer. The film will be a joint venture by Kaushal Joshi’s Raaya Picturez, Shehnaaz Gill Production and Amarjit Singh Saron’s Amor Film Presents. It is written and directed by Amarjit and is scheduled to hit the theatres on June 13. Making the announcement, she wrote, “With overwhelmed hearts announcing our film – Ikk Kudi RELEASING WORLDWIDE ON 13th JUNE 2025.”

Before this, Shehnaaz Gill, in another post, revealed that she would start shooting for her new Punjabi film. She even posted pictures from the muhurat of the film. Posing with a clapperboard, she radiated simplicity and was even seen praying before the shoot. Meanwhile, a group picture featured her with the entire cast, producers and her manager for the film.

“Starting a new journey today and I am immensely proud and happy to announce that today we commence the shooting of my Punjabi film with my dream team,” wrote Shehnaaz alongside the photos. Fans are eagerly awaiting the release of Ikk Kudi, thanks to its talented cast, captivating storyline, and debut production of Shehnaaz Gill.

As for her last project, she won hearts with her appearance in an item song of Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri’s Vicky and Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video.



Darshan Raval And Dharal Surelia’s Wedding: A Night Of Love, Music And Glamour



Darshan Raval’s dreamy wedding announcement post broke many hearts. On January 18, he married his best friend and love of his life, Dharal Surelia. The couple’s wedding day was nothing short of magical, with stunning photos that gave off major couple goals. Recently, some inside glimpses from their sangeet night surfaced, and Darshan left everyone spellbound with his soulful singing. In a video posted on Reddit, Darshan mesmerised viewers with his heartfelt performance at the sangeet. He dedicated a romantic song to Dharal, expressing emotions he hadn’t yet shared. The love between Darshan and Dharal was undeniable, with the singer showing his affection while standing beside his bride-to-be. Dharal blushed and shared the sweet moment, enjoying every second of the song.

In the second part of the clip, another segment from Dharal and Darshan’s sangeet night, the couple filled the evening with even more love and entertainment. The deeply in-love pair danced to one of Darshan’s songs and the video beautifully captured the depth of their affection for each other.

Although we couldn’t get more glimpses of the sangeet night, the video proved the blast of enjoyment they had. The entire stage was decked up with magical lights and many performers were seen performing beside the couple – everything accounting for the party’s vibrant mood. For the sangeet, Darshan looked dashing in a navy blue embellished sherwani, exuding charm. He paired it with a matching doshala and pants, keeping the accessories minimal and completing the look with a pair of matching loafers. Dharal, on the other hand, turned heads in a silver-embellished lehenga choli, radiating fashionista vibes. She complemented the skirt with a rustic-hued V-neck blouse featuring short sleeves and paired it with a sheer, cut-out dupatta. Her messy, open tresses and shimmery makeup further elevated her glamorous appearance.

Karan Veer Mehra Breaks Silence On Mocking Vivian Dsena's Bond With His Daughter: 'The Low Point...'



The grand finale of Salman Khan’s Bigg Boss 18 was held on Sunday night with Karan Veer Mehra emerging victorious and taking home the grand prize of Rs 50. Karan Veer defeated his friend Vivian Dsena to lift the coveted trophy. Although Karan and Vivian had a friendship, things turned sour when during a roast, Karan said that Vivian’s daughter doesn’t recognise him. After the finale, Karan spoke to SCREEN to discuss his highs and lows on the show. He said, “The task where I lifted Edin or trimmed Rajat’s beard were my high points. The low point was the roast I did with Vivian, I should have avoided that.”

Karan Veer said, “We had a lover’s spat on the show, actually both of our definitions of friendship are very different. He thought of me as a dearer friend and I was coming from a space where I thought he was getting things very easily. But now it’s a 100-day friendship.” As for winning the Bigg Boss 18 title, Karanveer Mehra said, “I share this trophy



with all those who have voted and loved me and of course the media who I have not paid.” He also added that he dedicated his victory to all the fans and friends who supported him tirelessly. “I have gotten used to winning, I want to have a hat-trick now. So please Colors TV announce another show now which I could win, maybe Laughter Chefs.”

The Bigg Boss 18 finale was held in Mumbai’s Film City on Sunday, January 19. The mega show, hosted by Salman Khan, was attended by several celebrities including Aamir Khan and Veer Pahariya. Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan joined his son, Junaid Khan, and Khushi Kapoor to promote their upcoming movie, Loveyapa. Former Bigg Boss finalists, Ankita Lokhande and Vicky Jain also attended the finale and talked about their upcoming show, Laughter Chefs 2. While Karan Veer Mehra won Bigg Boss 18, Vivian Dsena was the runner-up. Other contestants who were a part of the finale besides were Rajat Dalal, Avinash Mishra, Eisha Singh and Chum Darang.