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# 12 of 16 Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh identified, Odisha's Munna among dead

Gold Prices Breach Rs 83,000-  
Mark For First Time

Bhubaneswar, 24/1 (photonewstimes): Twelve of the 16 Maoists killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district have been identified as dreaded ultras carrying a cumulative bounty of Rs 3.13 crore, including a central committee member of the outlawed movement, a police official said on Thursday. Prime among them was Chalpathi alias Jairam, a member of the central committee and Odisha state committee of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), who had a collective bounty of Rs 90 lakh on his head in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, he said.

It was the first time someone from the central committee, the main governing body of the proscribed outfit, has been eliminated in an encounter in Chhattisgarh, the official added. As many as 16 Maoists, including six women, were killed in an encounter with security personnel in a forest under Mainpur police station limits (Gariaband) along Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. The three-day operation involving personnel belonging to E-30 (a Gariaband district police unit), Central Reserve Police Force, its elite unit

CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) and Odisha police's Special Operation Group concluded on Wednesday. "Of the killed cadres, 12 have been identified. These 12 cadres carried a cumulative reward of Rs 3.13 crore in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Chalpathi, also known as Ramchandran, Pratap Reddy, Appa Rao and Ravi, was a resident of Chittoor district in Andhra Pradesh. He carried a reward of Rs 40 lakh, Rs 25 lakh and Rs 25 lakh in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, respectively," said inspector General of Police (Raipur Range)



Amresh Mishra.

Two other key cadres were identified as Jairam alias Guddu (50), member of Odisha state committee and secretary of Dhamtari-Gariaband-

Nuapada (DGN) division of Maoists, and Satyam Gavde (43), chief of DGN division, both natives of Chhattisgarh who carried cumulative reward of Rs 65 lakh each in three

states, the IG informed. "Alok alias Munna, a divisional committee member, and Mannu, member of military company no. 1 in Maad area, carried a bounty of Rs 18 lakh and Rs 14 lakh,

respectively, in three states. Four slain ultras have been identified as Maoist area committee members Shankar, Kalmu Deve alias Kalla, Manju and Rinki. They carried a collective reward of Rs 13 lakh each," he said. Three deceased cadres have been identified as Sukhran, a party member, Rame Oyam (28) and Jaini (24), both members of Mainpur LGS (local guerilla squad), the IG said, adding they carried a reward of Rs 3 lakh each on their heads. Efforts are on to ascertain the identity of four other deceased cadres, Mishra said.

New Delhi, 24/1 (photonewstimes): Gold prices extended the rally for the eighth consecutive session and climbed Rs 200 to breach the psychological level of Rs 83,000 per 10 grams for the first time in the national capital on Friday amid aggressive buying triggered by global market uncertainties. According to the All India Sarafa Association, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity rose Rs 200 to hit a fresh lifetime high of Rs 83,100 per 10 grams. It had closed at Rs 82,900 per 10 grams on Thursday.

# 10 MPs suspended for disruption during discussion on Waqf Amendment Bill

# President Murmu to Address Nation Today on Eve of R-Day

New Delhi, 24/1 (photonewstimes): As many as 10 opposition MPs were suspended from the house for a day, for alleged disruption during the Joint Parliamentary Committee discussion on the Waqf Amendment Bill on Friday. Based on the proposal of BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, the suspension of 10 opposition MPs for the day was subsequently accepted by the panel. Dubey accused the opposition of using unparliamentary language. He alleged that the MPs were trying to suppress the majority's voice. Dubey also claimed that the opposition's behaviour was against parliamentary

traditions, and their attempts to disrupt the meeting were an affront to democratic norms. Following this, MPs namely Kalyan Banerjee, Mohammad Javed, A. Raja, Asaduddin Owaisi, Nasir Hussain, Mohibullah, M. Abdullah, Arvind Sawant, Nadimul Haque, and Imran Masood were suspended for the entire day. At the same time, the Opposition MPs alleged that they were not given sufficient time to study the draft which was brought up for discussion. Chaired by BJP MP Jagadambika Pal, the panel meeting was set to hear a delegation led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq



from Kashmir. Meanwhile, the meeting was disrupted by opposition MPs who raised concerns about "the speed with which the government wanted to pass the bill", at the threshold of the Delhi Assembly elections, that's scheduled in February. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, who appeared before the committee after the suspension, expressed his

strong opposition to the Waqf Amendment Bill, stressing that the government should not intervene in religious matters. Farooq further pointed out they hoped their suggestions would be heard and implemented. The aim should be to ensure that Muslims do not feel marginalised by

any proposed changes, he remarked. Before being suspended, opposition MPs, including Kalyan Banerjee of TMC and Congress member Syed Nasir Hussain, walked out of the meeting. They accused the proceedings of becoming a "farce." They demanded that the meeting be postponed until January 30 or 31 to

allow for a detailed, clause-by-clause discussion. Banerjee even described the atmosphere as resembling an "undeclared emergency" where the chairman was not listening to anyone. Arvind Sawant, a Shiv Sena (UBT) MP, flayed the "hasty handling" of such an important Bill, which, according to him, could potentially cause unrest in the country. "Why the Bill was being rushed through the committee process when there should be a proper discussion on the pivotal issue", he asked.



New Delhi, 24/1 (photonewstimes): The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu will address the nation tomorrow (January 25, 2025) on the eve of Republic Day. The address will be broadcast from 1900 hrs. on the entire national network of Akashvani and telecast over all channels of Doordarshan in Hindi followed by the English version. Broadcast of the address in Hindi and English on Doordarshan will be followed by broadcast in regional languages by regional channels of Doordarshan. Akashvani will broadcast regional language versions from 2130 hrs. onwards on its respective regional networks.

# CM Majhi to lead global CEO discussions at flagship investment summit

Bhubaneswar, 24/1 (photonewstimes): The Utarkash Odisha Make in Odisha Conclave 2025, scheduled from 28th to 30th January, promises to be a defining moment for the state of Odisha as it positions itself as a key player in India's industrial transformation. The event will feature a pivotal CEO's Round Table led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, where he will engage with top CEOs and Managing Directors from leading global industries. This exclusive session will offer a unique platform for discussions aimed at forging strategic partnerships, aligning industrial growth

with the state's ambitious vision for a Viksit Odisha 2036, and driving transformative pathways for industrial empowerment during the Amrit Kaal. Odisha aspires to become a \$500 billion economy by 2036, leveraging its strategic strengths, abundant natural resources, skilled workforce, and robust policy framework. This session will emphasize the State's roadmap for inclusive industrial development and its contribution to realizing India's ambition for a \$10 trillion economy by 2035.

# Fog alert: Yellow warning issued for 13 districts

Bhubaneswar, 24/1 (photonewstimes): Odisha woke up to a blanket of dense fog, resulting in a significant drop in temperature across the state. Although netizens are experiencing relief from the chilling winter cold, the dense fog has been causing disruption in normal lives. The regional weather office in Bhubaneswar has issued an advisory predicting dense fog for 13 districts over the coming two days. A yellow warning for 13 districts has been issued for today and tomorrow, cautioning residents of potential disruptions due to reduced visibility. The thick fog particularly affected six coastal districts, including the state capital Bhubaneswar. Reports from Bhubaneswar confirm that the blanket of fog has led to delays in flight operations at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), with passengers advised to check with airlines for updates.

# Bagchi Karunashraya Palliative Care Centre

Jatni, (photonewstimes): At Jatani constituency Jaanla ariya, the facility offers both inpatient care and home-based palliative care privileged by the grate personality couple, Shri Subroto Bagchi and Smt Susmita Bagchi both of providing holistic support to patients and their families. With a focus on pain management, emotional support, and dignity in end-of-life care, the Bagchi Karunashraya Palliative Care Center creates a healing

environment for patients during their most vulnerable moments. "The center will also have a dedicated wing for research and education and will play a key role in furthering palliative care education and training in the state. "The centre also has a dedicated research and education block. "The trust has been proactive in training doctors, nurses and other medical professionals in palliative care at its centre in Bangalore. So far about 200 Government doctors and nurses from Odisha have been trained. "This



training will now be imparted from the Bhubaneswar campus. The education and research wing will help in capacity building in palliative care in the state

and beyond. "This initiative is expected to be a transformative step for palliative care in Odisha, catering to the growing need for such services in the state while setting an

example for similar initiatives across the country. "The center also aims to raise awareness about the importance of palliative care and inspire similar initiatives across

India, bridging the critical gap in services for terminally ill patients. "The facility offers both inpatient care and home-based palliative care, "providing holistic support to patients and their families. With a focus on pain management, emotional support, and dignity in end-of-life care, the Bagchi Karunashraya Palliative Care Center creates a healing environment for patients during their most vulnerable moments. "The center will also have "a

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## Diljit Dosanjh on Panjab 95 facing delays: Truth will finally come out



Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh shared a post on social media as his upcoming film, Panjab 95 has faced significant delays. The actor wrote that the truth would finally come out.

Actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh's film Panjab 95 has faced several delays. On January 23, Dosanjh shared a post in Punjabi and hinted that the film would be released soon and that the truth would finally come out. Due to the film's sensitive subject, the censor board had advised Panjab 95's makers to make 120 cuts. The film is based on the life of activist Jaswant Singh Khalra.

The actor shared his look from the film and wrote, "Today or tomorrow, the truth will finally come out. No one can stop this truth from unfolding. I have faith that with divine blessings, a way will be found and this story will be shared with the world (sic)." The movie, based on the life of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, was initially scheduled to release internationally on February 7. However, the release has been postponed, with a new date yet to be announced.

The film was also screened for Jaswant Singh Khalra's family in 2022, and sources said they were extremely pleased with it.

Panjab 95 is expected to show the life led by Khalra before he was kidnapped, tortured, and murdered tragically by the police. At least six officers had been booked for their involvement in the crime.

## Akshay Kumar questions history books: We read about Akbar-Aurangzeb, not our heroes



In an interview recently, actor Akshay Kumar mentioned our 'history books' and the need for telling the stories of our brave Indian soldiers. He plays the role of an Air Force pilot in his latest film, Sky Force.

Actor Akshay Kumar suggested 'corrections' in our 'history books' in an interview while promoting his latest film, Sky Force. The 57-year-old underscored the importance of playing an unsung hero in his films. The actor mentioned the textbooks carrying the stories of 'Akbar and Aurangzeb', and not of our soldiers. In an interview with News18 Showsha, Akshay said the stories about the valour of Indian soldiers should be a part of our history books. He shared, "There are so many things which are not there in our books. I intentionally play roles which are not a part of our books. I want to do this. They are all unknown heroes." "The Khiladi of Bollywood, as he is popularly called, added, "People do not know anything about them because nobody goes deep. I go for these kinds of roles."

He asserted, "History books need to be corrected. A lot of things there need to be corrected. We read about Akbar or Aurangzeb but do not read about our own heroes. They need to be mentioned."

Akshay went on to talk about the lives of those who have been conferred with the Param Veer Chakra, India's highest military honour, and the stories of their extreme courage in times of adversity. "There are so many stories from the army. So many people have been honoured with the Param Veer Chakra. I think history needs to be corrected and these kinds of leaders should be brought in and told to our generation," he said. Sky Force features the actor playing the role of Wing Commander KO Ahuja, a character based on Wing Commander Om Parkash Taneja, who fought during the 1965 India-Pakistan war. He was given a Vir Chakra for his bravery after he demolished the enemy's aircraft and runway during a risky mission in September 1965. Akshay is joined by debutant Veer Pahariya, Nimrat Kaur and Sara Ali Khan in the film.

# Vicky Kaushal on physical transformation for Chhaava: Went from 80 to 105 kilos

Vicky Kaushal shared how he gained 25 kg for his role as Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in Chhaava. The actor spoke about doing an action-packed film after Uri: The Surgical Strike. Chhaava will release in theatres on February 14. After his role in the action film Uri: The Surgical Strike, Vicky Kaushal is elated to be a part of Chhaava. The period drama features Vicky playing the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj. During his recent media interaction at Chhaava trailer launch, the actor shared his preparation behind playing the iconic character.

Vicky Kaushal confessed that he wanted to do an action film for a very long time. He shared how he had gained 25 kgs for his role in the upcoming drama. While talking about the same, he said, "The last action film I did was Uri: The Surgical Strike. Since then, I have been yearning for an opportunity to do action again. I didn't know they'd put me on a horse and have me wield a sword. But everything was new. I didn't know horse riding, so I trained for it, along with sword fighting and spear combat—everything



involved proper training for 6-7 months. Then there was the weight gain—I went from 80 kilos to 105 kilos." Adding, he said how he trained hard for his role. "Other than this, I

had to do a lot of action training, practicing action sequences for months. Action choreographer Parvez Sir and his team supported us immensely. The entire

action sequence you saw in the teaser was shot under the scorching sun with a crowd of 2,000 people, including around 500 stuntmen. It was during the month of Ramadan, and

many stuntmen were fasting, performing stunts without eating or drinking, all to showcase the glory of Shambhaji Maharaj." The film narrates the valour of Sambhaji Maharaj, son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and shows him carrying the strength of four great natural elements that make the world - earth, fire, water and air. The period drama also features Ashutosh Rana, Divya Dutta, Neil Bhoopalam, Santosh Juvekar, and Pradeep Rawat in key roles. AR Rahman has composed the music for the film. Chhaava is bankrolled by Maddock Films.

## Sukesh Chandrashekar unveils portrait of Jacqueliene

Alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekar, currently lodged in a Delhi jail, has unveiled a striking artwork featuring actress Jacqueliene Fernandez. The piece is prominently displayed on the upper deck of a lavish yacht that he gifted to her for 39th birthday.

The yacht has been named 'Lady Jacqueline'. In a recent letter addressed to the actress, Sukesh wrote: "My Love, My Jacqueline, Baby my Baby, saw your new pictures, God how can someone be so pretty, Baby you are just too extremely pretty. On this note, I have two things to dedicate to you my love, today." He dedicated the song 'Sajni' from the recently released movie 'Laapataa Ladies'. "Baby, first I wanna dedicate an apt song, which is my current mood, and right now feelings for you, and the song is 'SAJNI' from

Lapata Ladies. Baby every line in that track is for you. I really don't know how my day and night is passing without you around me or me talking to you," wrote Sukesh.

He further said: "My Second Dedication is unveiling a stunning Art Work of your Portrait installed in the upper Deck of your Birthday Gift. Lady Jacqueline, which is enroute to Mumbai, as of now. Bomma my Baby, you know what's special about this Art Work, it's a Work which is straight out of my dreams, which is brought to reality, and now installed in your Baby Lady Jacqueline, for you my Sajni, I hope you will like it." "Baby Sometimes we all face the Highs and Lows, it's just a part of our lives, we even feel we don't need anyone. Loving ourself is enough, or our close ones, But, Baby we give our heart only to the 'One'. No matter what hits us our Heart beats



only for that one person, and for me that's you and just you, come what may, and the same is with you and I know it, and you have loved me as crazy as it can get and no matter what just remember the promise we made to each other, I would never give up on you My Baby, Rest you know me better my Doll," he said. He added: "Baby you know, what's the amazing thing our love story is today's Romeo Juliet, and the whole world is witness to it, because our love story is set a Benchmark Example to how love has no barriers. Baby Girl, a thousand would say a thousand things, look and

hear what really exists deep in our Heart, and all that it would say is 'JFS' forever." "Baby my love, just two more to go, Can't wait my Love, I Love you my Jackie, every second only thinking about you my Baby Boo. Love you like crazy my Sajni, my Botta Bomma. You are amazing my love. Missing You, Love Mr S," concluded Sukesh. Sukesh was arrested May 29, 2015, for offences under Sections 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and some sections of the Prize Chits and Money Circulation Schemes

(Banning) Act and the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Act.

He allegedly used illegal money to buy gifts for Jacqueliene, as per the ED charge sheet filed in 2022.

Jacqueliene was summoned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in a money laundering case involving Sukesh Chandrashekar. Earlier, to mark Jacqueliene's birthday, the conman has pledged a donation of Rs 15 crore and 300 homes for the families of the victims of the Wayanad landslide disaster.

He has also announced 100 iPhone 15 Pro for making the song 'Yimmy Yimmy' featuring Jacqueliene, a super hit. The Sri Lankan actress and model Jacqueliene made her acting debut in 2009 with fantasy action comedy Aladin directed by Sujoy

Ghosh. The film starred Amitabh Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, and Riteish Deshmukh.

She then featured in a special number Aapka Kya Hoga in the 2010 comedy drama Housefull.

The actress has appeared in movies like Race 2, Kick, Roy, Brothers, Housefull 3, Dishoom, A Gentleman, Judwaa 2, Race 3, Drive, Mrs. Serial Killer, Bhoot Police, Bachchan Paandey, Vikrant Rona, Ram Setu, and Cirkus. She was last seen in a special appearance in the song Deewane in the 2023 comedy-drama Selfie directed by Raj Mehta and produced by Star Studios Dharma Productions, Magic Frames, Prithviraj Productions and Cape of Good Films. The film stars Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi.

# 'Tauba Tauba' fever: Revisiting Bollywood songs that left internet groovy

Here's a look at how and why the internet embraces the viral Bollywood dance numbers like Vicky Kaushal's 'Tauba Tauba', Katrina Kaif's 'Kala Chashma', and others.

What makes a song go viral on the internet? There's no formula to make a song go viral. It's about this whole package - of music, lyrics, dance, who's performing it and how it's being presented. Like everything else in the creative business, a good video has to click with the audience. For it to go viral, it has to appeal to all kinds of audience - even those who usually don't consume that kind of content. 'Tauba Tauba', a new song from the Bollywood film 'Bad Newz' has done just the

same. It has instantly crawled up the top chartbusters' list and even though it is just all about the glam, with a very sexualised Vicky Kaushal, it's a hit among the audience. So much so that he has got newfound popularity among the heartland audience, known for never holding back their craze for a scintillating dance number.

'Tauba Tauba' has music by Punjabi singer Karan Aujla, and it is choreographed by Bosco Martis. Interestingly, it does a great deal of glorifying a woman's beauty, referring to Triptii Dimri in the video, but ends up highlighting Vicky as the very definition of 'tall, dark, handsome'. Vicky's tryst with Punjabi music



and his casual dance moves have made many videos go viral on Instagram before, but this time, he seems almost unstoppable. The choreography does justice in utilising the actor's full potential as a dancer in a never-seen-before fashion. While the popularity of 'Tauba Tauba' can be largely attributed to the actor's ever-growing

charm, it is also the vibe that it exudes. When a trend rises on social media, it breaks down into many forms of entertainment, but the vibe remains the same. You could be a failure at dancing, nowhere near to Vicky's smooth-like-butter-moves, but if you could still manage to match the mood of the song, your job is done.

'Tauba Tauba' is also one of those dance numbers which is brilliantly made to please the female gaze, as opposed to your regular dance numbers where the 'Chikni Chamelis' and the 'Sheelas' of the world are objectified to satisfy the male gaze. It puts the onus of glamourising the screen on a man's shoulder, and he never disappoints. Every time a

Bollywood song has taken the internet by storm, it hasn't just been done casually. It was back in 2015 when it all began. Salman Khan decided to give his audience a double dose of 'Prem' on-screen. It was Sonam Kapoor's graceful moves on the song 'Prem Ratan Dhan Payo' which made everyone sit up, take notice, and try it again and again till they got them right. So, we didn't just get influencers, but also the brides, the bridesmaids and everyone who could keep their timidity at bay, grooving to the song with their waist out hands up.

## Healy picked for Ashes D/N Test as pure batter



**New Delhi, (photonewstimes):** Alyssa Healy has been picked as a pure batter for the D/N Ashes Test at the MCG, Cricket Australia confirmed while naming the 13-member squad. The selection panel has picked the same 13 that was chosen to play the ODIs with Georgia Voll in with a shout to make her Test debut. Healy was ruled out of the first T20I and hasn't featured in the second game as well as a result of a stress reaction on her foot. Even though her participation in the final T20I on January 25 is uncertain, the selectors are hopeful of her availability for the historic Test that will begin on January 30.

Beth Mooney is expected to keep wickets for the Test match.

"Alyssa has been named in the squad as a batter only and we'll give her as much time as we can to prove her fitness ahead of the match," Cricket Australia's Head of Performance (Women's Cricket) and National Selector, Shawn Flegler said. "Ash will continue to be assessed daily, and her availability for the third T20 remains uncertain. At this stage she is on track to be available for the Test match."

"It's a reasonably experienced squad that have played Tests against India and South Africa in the last couple of years and one we think can beat England over the course of four days. There's no

bigger occasion than a pink-ball Test at the MCG and there's no doubt the team will be looking to claim the four points up for grabs." Australia, in possession of the Ashes since 2015, have currently dominated the ongoing series winning all four games played so far. While victories in the white-ball games guarantee two points, the winner of the Test match will be awarded four points. Squad: Alyssa Healy (c), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath (vc), Beth Mooney (wk), Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham

## Dominant Royals cruise to a comfortable win



**New Delhi, (photonewstimes):** Paarl Royals strengthened their position at the top of the points table with a comfortable five-wicket victory over bottom-placed Durban Super Giants in Durban on Thursday. After keeping the home side to just 142 in their allotted 20, Royals marched to the victory in just 17.3 overs courtesy of contributions in the 40s from Rubin Hermann and Mitchell Van Buuren. Quinton de Kock provided a perfect start and, alongside his opening partner Matthew Breetzke, put on 50 in the powerplay alone. De Kock was the aggressor, hitting three sixes and as many boundaries in his 30-ball 43 but DSG lost both its set openers in quick succession with the very economical Bjorn Fortuin providing the breakthrough. In the middle overs, the spinners took over and

Durban's middle-order felt the heat in their attempt to rebuild. Joe Root got Kane Williamson and Mujeeb sent back Heinrich Klaasen cheaply to reduce the home side to 81/4 in the 13th over. Wiaan Mulder (24 off 27) and JJ Smuts (32 off 22) managed to arrest the slide with a 59-run partnership for the fifth wicket but the prior collapse meant they finished with yet another underwhelming total of 142/7.

Despite losing Root in the first over and the explosive Lhuan-dre Pretorius after a 13-ball cameo worth 25 in the fourth, Paarl finished the powerplay with a massive 70/2 and were already ahead on the asking rate thanks to Hermann. He was the aggressor in his partnership with van Buuren, slamming three maximums and four more boundaries

in his 22-ball knock of 44 before being the third dismissed.

Van Buuren, who chipped in a solid run-out a-ball 41, then found company in skipper David Miller and the pair added 59 runs for the fourth wicket. The former became the second Paarl batter to miss out on a half-century when his side was only seven runs away, and Miller was run out in the following over in Dinesh Karthik's call for a tight single. However, the former Indian 'keeper struck a boundary to wrap things up in style.

Brief scores: Durban Super Giants 142/7 in 20 overs (Quinton de Kock 43, JJ Smuts 32; Mujeeb-ur-Rahman 2-23) lost to Paarl Royals 146/5 in 17.3 overs (Rubin Hermann 44, Mitchell Van Buuren 41; Junior Dala 2-38) by 5 wickets.

## Lean patch in Tests will not impact Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma's white-ball form: Irfan

**New Delhi, (photonewstimes):** Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan believes that Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's Test form will not affect their batting in white-ball cricket. The star duo will return to international duties in the ODI series against England. Rohit and Virat are preparing for the Champions Trophy 2025 with a three-match series, starting February 6.

The duo looked out of touch in the Test series against New Zealand and Australia, which resulted in questions being asked about their spots in the Indian team. However, Pathan feels that the senior batting duo will be



able to continue their dominant run in white-ball format even though their red-ball form is down in the trenches. Speaking to PTI, the former India cricketer backed Rohit and Virat to bounce back strongly in the England series and then the Champions

Trophy. "They'll start scoring runs in white-ball cricket; there's no doubt about that," Irfan said. "Test cricket is a different ball game altogether. Adjustments are needed, whether it's Virat managing deliveries outside the

off-stump or Rohit finding his rhythm. ODI is their favourite format, and they'll bounce back strongly," Pathan added. Interestingly, Rohit and Virat last played a white-ball game in the series against Sri Lanka, where India were beaten 2-0.

The senior duo is trying to revive their form and are playing the Ranji Trophy during the break.

While Rohit has already played one innings vs Jammu and Kashmir, Kohli has skipped the penultimate round of the Ranji Trophy but is expected to play Delhi's final group-stage game of the tournament. Reacting to the news of the duo playing domestic cricket, Pathan said: "It's about playing domestic cricket, but don't play a couple of matches just for the sake of it and show that you've played."

## Virat Kohli is the only option for RCB's captaincy choice: AB de Villiers

**New Delhi, (photonewstimes):** AB de Villiers backs Virat Kohli as the ideal captain for RCB in IPL 2025, emphasizing his leadership experience and unwavering commitment to the franchise's maiden title pursuit. Kohli's return could reignite the team's ambitions and morale. South African cricket legend AB de Villiers has expressed his belief that Virat Kohli is the best choice to lead Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. De Villiers, a former key player for RCB, emphasized Kohli's leadership qualities and his ability to inspire the current squad in their quest for a maiden IPL title.

With Faf du Plessis leaving RCB for Delhi Capitals in the IPL 2025 mega auction, the franchise is searching for a new captain. While their auction activity focused on bolstering specific roles, the leadership question looms large. De Villiers, speaking in a recent YouTube video, highlighted Kohli's experience and influence as critical factors that make him the perfect candidate for the role. "Friends, I think Virat Kohli is the only option [for RCB's captaincy choice]. He is near the end of his career, more inspired than ever before. Till the time he gets the form, and score runs, we are used to watching him play match-winning innings. It's like a swansong," de Villiers said.



Kohli previously captained RCB from 2013 to 2021, during which he led the team to the IPL 2016 final, a season where his extraordinary batting included four centuries. While he stepped down from the captaincy in 2021, his potential return to the role has generated excitement among fans and analysts alike. De Villiers sees this as an opportunity for Kohli to

script a fairytale finish with the franchise he has loyally represented for over a decade. Despite Kohli's recent struggles with the bat in international cricket, particularly in Tests, his leadership credentials remain unquestioned. After scoring a century in Perth during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Kohli's form waned as India suffered

series defeats to New Zealand and Australia. However, he has shown resilience in the past and will aim to bounce back in the upcoming Champions Trophy before taking on the IPL challenge. For RCB, Kohli's return as captain could rejuvenate their title ambitions. His deep understanding of the team's culture and dynamics, combined with his enduring passion for the franchise, positions him as the ideal leader to steer the squad towards a long-awaited IPL triumph. Fans and experts alike are hopeful that Kohli's potential captaincy will not only reignite his form but also set RCB on a path to glory in 2025.

## Manoj Tiwary recalls being 'targetted' by former KKR captain Gambhir

**NEW DELHI (photonewstimes):** Manoj Tiwary opened up about being unfairly targeted by Gautam Gambhir during their time at Kolkata Knight Riders, detailing strained moments, including a confrontation where Wasim Akram had to intervene. Former Indian cricketer Manoj Tiwary has shed light on his strained relationship with Gautam Gambhir during their time together at Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League. In an interview with Lallantop, Tiwary shared instances of being unfairly targeted by Gambhir, who was KKR's captain during his tenure with the team.

Renowned for his determined and fiery personality, Gambhir's leadership style brought KKR great success, including two IPL titles. However, it also led to friction with teammates, including Tiwary, who described



Gambhir's behaviour as unnecessarily harsh and, at times, hurtful. Tiwary revealed that their disagreements often escalated to the point where others had to intervene. He recalled one specific incident when KKR's then bowling coach, Wasim Akram, had to step in to prevent a war of words between the two. "I would get scolded without any reason. I couldn't understand why he would target me. In fact, when I

came to KKR in 2010, he and I got along nicely. But then he would lose his cool at me out of the blue. He would use very hurtful words. Then, when I started thinking about it, I realised that out of all the local boys at KKR, I was the one who used to perform consistently. And since I was a promising youngster, the media was giving me attention. So, he didn't react to it well. That is what I believe," Tiwary said on Lallantop.

"Once, we had a heated argument about my batting position at the Eden Gardens. I was upset and had gone to the washroom. He barged in and said 'This attitude won't work. Tujhe kabhi khilaunga nahi (I won't give you a game). This and that. I never liked such words. He was giving me a threat. Aajke baad, tujhe kabhi khilaunga nahi. Wasim Akram also came in. He was our bowling coach, so he calmed things down. He said 'You are the captain. Cool down' He understood, he knew

what was happening. He had said good things about my talent a few years ago," Tiwary said. Gambhir, who now serves as India's head coach, has often been a divisive figure in cricket. His no-nonsense attitude and strict approach have drawn criticism from players and commentators alike. Recently, Tiwary openly criticised Gambhir's appointment as head coach following India's Test series defeats to New Zealand and Australia. He questioned Gambhir's credentials for the role, labelling him a "hypocrite" who fails to practise what he preaches. Tiwary argued that Gambhir lacks clarity in his coaching philosophy and has yet to establish a distinctive style that benefits the national team.

# Brazil hosts a G20 summit overshadowed by wars and Trump's return, aiming for a deal to fight hunger

Rio De Janeiro, (photonewstimes): With Brazil preparing to host the Group of 20 summit, it appears unlikely the leading rich and developing nations will sign on to a meaningful declaration regarding geopolitics: The meeting Monday and Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro is overshadowed by two major wars and Donald Trump's recent election victory.

Heightened global tensions and uncertainty about an incoming Trump administration have tempered any expectations for a strongly worded statement addressing the conflicts in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine. Experts instead anticipate a final document focused on social issues like the

eradication of hunger — one of Brazil's priorities — even if it aims to include at least a mention of the ongoing wars.

"Brazilian diplomacy has been strongly engaged in this task, but to expect a substantively strong and consensual declaration in a year like 2024 with two serious international conflicts is to set the bar very high," said Cristiane Lucena Carneiro, an international relations professor at the University of Sao Paulo.

After Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva thwarted far-right former President Jair Bolsonaro's reelection bid in 2022, there was some excitement in the international community at the prospect of the leftist leader and savvy diplomat — who Barack Obama once called "the most

popular politician on Earth" — hosting the G20. Bolsonaro had little personal interest in international summits, let alone foreign policy be guided by ideology and clashed with several leaders, including France's Emmanuel Macron. Lula took office and often quoted a catchphrase: "Brazil is back."

Brazil under Lula has reverted to its decades-old principle of non-alignment to carve out a policy that best safeguards its interests in an increasingly multipolar world. That involves talking to all parties, which experts say gave Brazil a privileged position to host a summit such as the G20.

But his administration's foreign policy has at times raised eyebrows. A



Brazil-China peace plan for Russia and Ukraine doesn't call for Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine and has been slammed by Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskyy. And Lula sparked a diplomatic incident with Israel after comparing its actions in Gaza to the Holocaust.

Donald Trump's win in the US presidential election earlier this

nation say Argentine negotiators are standing in the way of a joint declaration. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly. Two of them said Argentina's negotiators have raised several objections to the draft. They most vehemently oppose a clause calling for a global tax on the super-rich — which they had previously accepted, in July — and another promoting gender equality.

Ambassador Mauricio Lyrio, Brazil's key negotiator at G20, told journalists on Nov. 8 that the leaders' final declaration should address the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, but that diplomats were still discussing

how to reach universally acceptable language.

"The main message, naturally, is that we need to achieve peace not only regarding these conflicts, but all conflicts," he said in the capital Brasilia, adding that Lula's launch of a global alliance against hunger and poverty on Monday is just as important as the final statement.

"The leaders' declaration will be the crowning achievement. But, at the same time, as instructed by the president himself, we have a G20 focused on concrete actions, such as the launch of a Global Alliance Against Hunger, with a package of very concrete social programs and innovative mechanisms to meet the resources needed for

implementing them."

Lula, a former trade unionist who hails from a humble background, made the fight against hunger a priority during his first two terms as president (2003-2010) both at home and abroad. The number of undernourished Brazilians fell by more than 80% in 10 years, according to a 2014 UN report. Lula's hunger alliance is the only one of Brazil's primary aims for a G20 declaration that will be obtained, according to Thomas Traumann, a former government minister and a political consultant based in Rio.



Glimpses of Full Dress Rehearsal of 76th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi. (Pic: PIB)

## Army To Showcase Surveillance Systems, "Pralay" Missiles For 1st Time On R-Day Parade

New Delhi, 24/1 (photonewstimes): Ahead of Republic Day, the Indian Army announced on Thursday the addition of two new features to this year's parade: battlefield surveillance systems and a DRDO tableau showcasing Pralay, short-range ballistic missiles.

Addressing a press conference, Major General Sumit Mehta said, "The things that will come for the first time is battlefield surveillance systems, second is DRDO tableau which is depicting Pralay, which is a short range ballistic missiles.... This is the fourth time that Indonesian president coming as chief guest."

Major General stated that about 5,000 cultural artists will perform across the ceremonial path to ensure visibility for everyone, along with the usual proceedings. Earlier, the performers used to perform in front of presidential box.

"If we focus on the opening segment, as I said,

it is a call to action, and it will deliver the same message as last time. There will be drums, other instruments, and the numbers will be impressive to witness. About 5,000 cultural artists, earlier we saw that most performers marched along the ceremonial path and approached the area near the presidential box. However, it was realized that others in the audience couldn't get a view of these cultural performances. Hence, this time, the performances will spread across the ceremonial path, ensuring visibility for everyone, along with the usual proceedings," Mr Mehta said.

The Major General said that a beating retreat ceremony will be held on January 29 on Vijay Chowk at 5.15pm. Mr Mehta said, "After 26 January, there would be a beating retreat ceremony on January 29 at Vijay Chowk at 5.15pm. Under this, Indian Army, Navy and Air Force and CAPF bands will perform in which around 29 tunes will be played and they will march while creating different formations."

Premier defence research agency Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), would be displaying its selected path-breaking innovations for national security during the 76th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

The DRDO Tableau, with the theme 'Raksha Kavach - Multi-layer Protection against Multi-domain Threats' will feature Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile; Airborne Early Warning & Control System; 155 mm/ 52 Cal Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System; Drone Detect, Deter & Destroy; Satellite-Based Surveillance System; Medium Power Radar - Arudhra; Advanced Light Weight Torpedo; Electronic Warfare System - Dharashakti; Laser-Based Directed Energy Weapon; Very Short Range Air Defence System; Indigenous Unmanned Aerial System; V/UHF Manpack Software Defined Radio for Land Forces; Indigenous Secure Satellite Phone and UGRAM Assault Rifle, the DRDO said in a release.

## Hundreds of migrants arrested

Washington, (photonewstimes): Hundreds of migrants in the United States were arrested Thursday and others flown out of the country on military aircraft as President Donald Trump's promised mass deportation operation got underway, the White House said.

The crackdown came as Trump prepared to head on Friday to California and North Carolina, where natural disasters have turned into political footballs, in his first trip since his return to office. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said Trump's administration on Thursday "arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals," adding "hundreds" were deported by military aircraft.

"The largest massive deportation operation in history is well underway," she said in a post on social media platform X. On Thursday, the Democratic mayor of the city of Newark, New Jersey, Ras Baraka, said in a statement that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents "raided a local establishment...detaining undocumented residents as well as citizens, without producing a warrant." Baraka said one of those detained during the raid was a US military veteran.

## Violence "Necessary" To Protect Idea Of Non-Violence: Senior RSS Leader

A h m e d a b a d , (photonewstimes): Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leader Bhaiyyaji Joshi on Thursday said that violence is sometimes "necessary" to protect the idea of non-violence, underscoring that India has to take everyone along on the path to peace.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 'Hindu Spiritual & Service Fair', also known as 'Hindu Adhyatmik Seva Mela', at the Gujarat University grounds here.

"Hindus are always committed to protecting their religion. To protect our 'dharma', we have to

do even those things which others will label as 'adharm' and such things were done by our ancestors," he said.

Citing the battle of Mahabharat, he said Pandavas kept aside the rules of the war to eliminate 'adharm'.

"There is no denying that the Hindu religion has the element of non-violence (embedded in it). However, sometimes we have to resort to violence to protect the idea of non-violence. Otherwise, the idea of non-violence will never be safe. Our great ancestors gave that message to us," said Mr



Joshi.

According to the RSS leader, the people of India have to take everyone along on the path to peace because the one who is capable of taking everyone along is the one who can establish peace.

He said there will be no peace if a religion does not allow others to follow their respective faiths. "There is no country other than India capable of taking along all other nations. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family) is our idea of spirituality. If we consider the entire world as a family, there will not be any conflict," he said.

"When we say that India

should become stronger, we are actually giving an assurance to the world that a stronger India and a stronger Hindu community are beneficial for everyone because we will protect the weaker and the downtrodden. This is the ideology attached to the world Hindu," said Mr Joshi. The RSS leader said it is a myth across the world that only a few institutions like the church or the missionaries are doing selfless service.

"We have an ancient tradition wherein nearly 1 crore people are given food daily at our temples or gurdwaras. Hindu religious organisations are

not just limited to performing rituals, they also run schools, gurukuls and hospitals," he said. When people call themselves Hindu, it includes many aspects, he said, adding that it is a religion, spirituality, ideology, service and lifestyle. Humanity is at the centre of the Hindu religion and it comprises "our duties, cooperation, truth and justice", said the RSS leader. Earlier, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the event.