



Have agreed to CBI probe into Palghar lynching case: Maha gov tells SC

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Barsu Refinery Project: Political tussle seen between opppn and Maharashtra govt



The situation in the village, where protesters who are opposing the refinery have gathered, was peaceful, he claimed while speaking to reporters here. Earlier in the day, police used tear gas in Barsu and Solgaon villages in Rajapur tehsil to disperse the protesters and detained Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Vinayak Raut.

Shinde said he spoke to Ratnagiri collector and superintendent of police as well as district guardian minister Uday Samant, and the collector told him that there was no lathi (baton) charge at the site. "A former chief minister himself had suggested the Barsu site to the Union government. After losing the CM's post, he is opposing the project. One cannot have such double standards," he said, apparently referring to Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray whose party is backing the section of villagers opposing the refinery.

"We are a people's government and we are not against them. We will not proceed without the local people's consent," the chief minister added. Shinde also claimed that more than 70 percent of locals support the project as it will generate employment. "We will explain the benefits of the project to the remaining 30 percent who are opposing it," he said, adding that there should be no politics on the issue.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said "the locals at Barsu, where a refinery has been proposed, have no trust in the Shiv Sena-BJP government in Maharashtra, "I heard what Sharad Pawar said that there should be a dialogue with the locals and take them into confidence. But what should one do? They don't have trust in the government".

While Congress Leader Nana Patole said "The project cannot be brought in by attacking the locals. The project can be implemented only by taking people into confidence. If the government continues to indulge in high-handedness, then we will give a befitting reply," the Congress leader said. PTI

Stray Cats are growing in every corner of Mumbai

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

When I was a kid, there were a lot of cats in our Girgaon Chawal. They had their territories marked and the people in the Chwal unconditionally would take care of them. Every six months, the cats used to breed and their population used to increase. The residents used to love those young kittens, and they used to take care of them. Even today, nothing much has changed much. In Mumbai, you will see cats around the human habitat. But in the past few years they are the most common in the city.

In the Covid pandemic, their owners abandoned many cats

during lockdown. Especially strays that went through immense suffering. During the initial part of the pandemic, because of the restrictions, there were many people who weren't getting food to feed the strays and there was panic, so a lot of strays went hungry. The roads were empty. There was no access to food; their owners threw 1000s of pets out of the house for their own survival. There was a constant rise in the stray population. Today, they have grown in huge numbers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

Stray Cats are growing in every corner of Mumbai

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The virus entered our lives with a lot of uncertainty, confusion, and fear. Within these two years, the cat population has risen in Mumbai.

They understand love, and abandoning them is a very cruel act. There was no evidence of a transmittable Covid Variant and hence these rumors ruined their lives.

As the cat population surges, politicians and civic bodies call for a cat sterilisation programme in Mumbai. Sterilisation programme for dogs is already in place; soon there may be one for cats too.

The virus entered our lives with a lot of uncertainty, confusion, and fear. Within these two years, the cat population has risen in Mumbai. The First wave of the pandemic has taken a big toll on pets, with many being abandoned on the city's hostile streets. There was a report on April 05, 2021 that triggered pet owners to abandon their pets. In that report WHO confirmed the possibility of Covid-19 transmission from humans to cats, dogs, tigers.

One needs compassion for pets and animals around. They gradually become members of our family. Animals are more affectionate than humans. They understand love, and abandoning them is a very cruel act. There was no evidence of a transmittable Covid Variant and hence these rumors ruined their lives. It irked many cooperative housing societies with the growing populace of cats. These abandoned cats are in the habit of living with humans, and that is the reason they took shelter in nearby habitats.

The lockdown also gave poverty, job loss and depression amongst people. People have trashed their pets to death, others hurt them, yet some poison them before abandoning. Studies have shown that domestic abuse victims delay or refuse to leave their animals with the domestic abusers as their pets have been victims as well, which shows that pet abusers live in closeted abusive households where the victims. The Pandemic has forced that beast in humans to come out and act thoughtless." Somehow, the time has changed and people are recovering from the losses and getting back to normal lives. Meanwhile, those abandoned pets are crowding on streets.

As the cat population surges, politicians and civic bodies call for a cat sterilisation programme in Mumbai. Sterilisation programme for dogs is already in place; soon there may be one for cats too. A corporator has moved A notice of motion that a sterilisation programme on the lines of dogs be also introduced for cats. Even experts say that sterilisation of cats is the need of the hour and must be made mandatory. Cats are

prolific breeders, a female cat could produce an average of 12 kittens per year, most people don't want to get their kitty neutered and they don't even want to have these many kittens. So these pets take to the streets.

The cat population has gone unnoticed in the city and has raised manifolds. While there is no survey to suggest what the cat population in the city is, their number has increased, especially in slums, chawls and markets where fish and meat are sold. Cats are one of the most common pets in India. Even if you don't want one as a pet you end up having one somewhere close to your home that has semi adopted you. Urban India with high rises is slowly becoming an exception to this, but that is not representative of India as a whole. Most abandoned dogs and cats are sick and/or come with behavioural issues because owners found their upkeep too expensive and exhaustive. Persian cats these days and they're also being abandoned in large numbers because people buy them as a status symbol without knowledge of the breed's dietary or medical requirements. Yes, they're furry and cuddly, but also need special care and grooming. Not to be dumped because they shed hair." Pedigreed and exotic canines, too, are surrendered or discarded every day by owners unable to nurture them after the initial showing-off.

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Vaidehi has received several Awards like Icongokarmavir chakra, Bedal Powell scout and guide awards 2021- best journalist, Newspaper Association of India award- best journalist. She received lot of awards for her contribution towards journalism.

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Perils of Lithium Mining

No doubt recent discovery of 5.9 million tonnes of inferred resources of lithium (Li) in the Salal-Haimana area of Reasi district, Jammu & Kashmir, by the Geological Survey of India has been received as a game-changer in India's impending transition to a green economy but the environmental effect from the mining is inevitable according to environmentalist.

Extracting Li entails open-pit-mining followed by roasting the ore using fossil fuels which consume 170 cubic meters of water & releases 15 tonnes of CO2 for every tonne of Li extracted. This depletes and contaminates waterways and groundwater, diminishes biodiversity, and releases considerable air pollution. Even the Himalayas (which is the youngest mountain range in the world) becomes much more unstable. Incidents of land sinking will also be reported if mining is carried out.

Vijaykumar H K

Same-sex marriage is not just insane but a farce!

Same-sex marriage is a farce & the very debate itself is ridiculous. Govt advising Supreme Court to let Parliament take a call on the subject is not just wasting precious time of the Parliament but also that of the Supreme Court. There is intimacy & sexual act in a marriage where two individuals of different gender participate. If the same act is between members of the same gender, it is a disease that needs to be addressed & cured than encouraged.

Education is the need of the hour & certain principles of humanity should be respected. Homosexuality should be discouraged as it is not just against nature but also against our 'Makers' creation of a beautiful world that had godly principles & the cycle of life where reproduction is what makes life on earth kicking. People who govern the nation along with courts should outright reject same-sex marriage which sounds insane!

S. N. Kabra

Give good manners to children

School children are now on summer vacation. So, let them play freely during this vacation. Take them for a walk in a natural place and explain important information about that place. During summer vacation, painting, swimming, karate, and other classes are available. It is the responsibility of the parents to encourage the children for the same. Parents should not overwhelm their children so that the children should be respected.

Uday Waghvankar

Strict rules will curb bad habits!

Loud talking and listening on a cell phone are prohibited while traveling in BEST buses. High-volume audio video is played by some commuters in the bus, causing disturbance to co-passengers. So, the decision taken by the BEST administration is very appropriate. In local train journeys some commuters while listening to audio or video on the cell phone, keep volume at a high level. This causes disturbance to other passengers. Listening to audio video on a cell phone at high volume should be banned in every public place. So that, other citizens will not suffer. Strict rules will curb bad habits.

Sudhir Kangutkar

World Veterinary Day



World Veterinary Day was first celebrated on April 29, 2000, as an initiative by the World Veterinary Association (WVA). Since then, it has been observed every year on the last Saturday of April, with a different theme chosen each year to highlight a specific aspect of veterinary medicine. This day provides a valuable opportunity to acknowledge and appreciate the significant contributions of veterinarians to society and to increase awareness about the importance of veterinary medicine.

The World Veterinary theme of 'Promoting diversity, equity, and inclusiveness in the veterinary profession,' to advocate for fairness and equity of the efforts of veterinarians, veterinary associations and others. People who treat human values in a high spirit will not harm animals and try as far as possible to respect animals as they are not harming us in any way. Mistreating animals is an offence and there need to be some strict rules to preserve and protect these animals in a loving way

and the offenders need to be handed out severe punishment so that such heinous offences will not be committed under any circumstances in future and there lies the real value for animals like dogs.

Diversity is the hallmark of the veterinary profession as vets deal with a variety of animal species including mammals, birds, reptiles, etc. Veterinary professionals, both males and females, play different roles; be it clinicians, administrators, public health experts, researchers, teachers, trainers, extension agents of schemes and perform other assignments too whenever asked for. Some of the world's most kind and unselfish people are veterinarians. They have the challenging job of caring for and assisting injured and ailing animals. Additionally, we honour all animals today, whether they are cattle or pets, wild or domestic, as well as both.

In accordance with Section 3 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act of 1960, it is also everyone's responsibility to

do everything in their power to protect the welfare of any animals in their care and to prevent needless suffering and agony. According to Section 11(1)(h) of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, it is considered cruelty if anyone who owns an animal fails to give it enough food, water, or shelter.

The World Veterinary Day honours the work done by veterinarians, veterinary organisations, and other groups to promote justice and equity. In a diverse society, there needs to be a special emphasis on removing obstacles and enhancing inclusiveness through diversity, equity, and inclusion policies and practices. The promotion and use of diversity, equity, and inclusion improve the well-being of all veterinarians.

- Jayanthi Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

Have agreed to CBI probe into Palghar lynching case: Maha gov tells SC



The Maharashtra government Friday told the Supreme Court that it has already recommended a CBI probe into the alleged lynching of three persons in Palghar in 2020 and this led to the closure of proceedings on as many as four pending petitions on the issue.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha took note of the fresh affidavit of the state

government that a communication to this effect has already been issued by it.

"In view of the decision taken by the state government, no further direction is needed on these petitions at this stage. The petitions are disposed of," the bench said.

The pleas demanded a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), alleging that the investigation by the state police

was being conducted in a biased manner.

Earlier, the erstwhile Maha Vikas Aghadi government had opposed the plea for a CBI probe into the incident and later, with the change in dispensation in the state, it agreed to the petitions seeking investigation by the central probe agency.

Three people from Kandivali in Mumbai were travelling in a car to attend a funeral in Surat in Gujarat amid the COVID-19-induced nationwide lockdown when their vehicle was stopped and they were attacked and allegedly killed by a mob in Gadchinchile village on the night of April 16, 2020 in the presence of police.

The victims were identified as Chikne Maharaj Kalpavrukshagiri, 70, Sushil Giri Maharaj, 35, and Nilesh Telgade, 30, who was driving the vehicle.

Refinery project: Maha Cong chief slams state govt's 'high-handedness'

Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole on Friday criticised the Eknath Shinde-led state government for "forcing" the oil refinery project on the residents of Barsu village in Ratnagiri district, and demanded that locals be taken into confidence before going ahead with it.

A section of people from Barsu in Rajapur tehsil, more than 400 km from Mumbai, have been opposing the mega refinery-petrochemical complex proposed to be set up at an estimated cost of several thousand crore rupees, claiming that it would destroy the ecology of the coastal region. More than 100 people were arrested on Tuesday for protesting against the project.

The Shiv Sena (UBT), Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress, all partners in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) have been supporting these residents, and have said the state government must proceed only after all the fears of the people are allayed.

The Barsu site is an alternative to the one at Nanar, also in Rat-



nagiri in the state's Konkan region. Talking to reporters, Patole said the project cannot be brought in by attacking the locals. "The project can be implemented only by taking people into confidence. If the government continues to indulge in high-handedness, then we will give a befitting reply," the Congress leader said.

State Industries Minister Uday Samant, who belongs to the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, admitted that there is tension in Barsu. "Villagers who are in favour of and against the refinery project held talks with the government yesterday. But some people want to create hurdles," he said, without naming the Sena (UBT).

The Sena (UBT), which has come out in support of the residents, has demanded an immediate end to "atrocities" against protesters.

Court acquits Sooraj Pancholi from charges of abetting suicide of actor Jiah Khan



Actor Jiah Khan's death was suicidal and the prosecution has "miserably" failed to prove its case that her then boyfriend Sooraj Pancholi had abetted her suicide, a special CBI court said on Friday acquitting Pancholi.

Special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court judge A S Sayyad said the evidence

against Pancholi was "vague and general" and no specific overt act or role can be attributed to him to reflect active abutment.

The court also said Jiah could have walked out of the relationship but she was a victim of her sentiments and could not overcome her emotions, holding that Pancholi cannot be held "responsible" for this.

Mumbai police arrest 160 persons in special drive against drugs

Mumbai police have registered 115 cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and arrested 160 persons for allegedly involved in trafficking, possession and distribution of drugs in the past four days, an official said on Friday.

The city police on Monday launched a special drive under which local police teams along with civic officials inspected areas near schools, colleges, markets, railway stations and gardens, the official said.



The official said drugs like MD, ganja, charas and cocaine were seized during the drive. Action was also taken against paan stalls selling illegal tobacco products, including imported

cigarettes that do not have the mandatory warnings or visuals on the packs under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), he said.

Since Monday, police have taken action against 2,694 persons under the COTPA, while encroachment made by 574 paan stalls was removed, the official said.

In the last 24 hours, police examined 446 persons with a history of NDPS cases. They arrested 41 persons and registered 35 new cases, apart from seizing various drugs, he added.

SC permits tribals to move HC on felling of trees in Aarey forest

The Supreme Court on Friday permitted some forest dwelling tribals to move the Bombay High Court with their grievances related to the felling of trees in Mumbai's Aarey forest for the metro rail project. Many trees being cut for the project are on their land.

A bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice P S Narasimha took note

of the submissions of senior advocate Indira Jaising, appearing for some tribals who claim to be living in the Aarey forest area, and asked them to intervene in a pending petition before the Bombay High Court on the issue.

The senior lawyer said, "We seek to intervene. I appear for the tribals and others who will be displaced if the trees are cut...49 trees are on our land."

The bench said a petition is already pending before the high court and they can raise the issue of enforcement of their right there. "The petitioners claim rights as forest dwellers. Since the petition is pending before the high court. A liberty is granted to raise this before the high court and the high court may consider this for expeditious listing," the bench said in its order.

Nation

CBI team at ex-JK governor Satya Pal Malik's Delhi residence



responsibilities in Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Goa, and Meghalaya.

After the latest CBI notice to seek clarifications from him, Malik had tweeted, "I have exposed the sins of some people by speaking the truth. Maybe that's why I have been called. I am the son of a farmer, I will not panic. I stand by the truth." The CBI registered two FIRs in connection with the corruption allegations levelled by Malik in the awarding of contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees, and civil work worth Rs 2,200 crore related to the Kiru hydro-electric power project in Jammu and Kashmir. Malik had claimed he was offered a Rs 300-crore bribe for clearing two files during his tenure as the Jammu and Kashmir governor between August 23, 2018 and October 30, 2019. PTI

The CBI on Friday questions former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik in connection with its probe in the alleged insurance "scam" in the Union Territory which came to light after his statement that he was offered bribes to clear related files, officials said.

A CBI team arrived around 11.45 am at the Som Vihar residence of Malik in the RK Puram

area of the national capital to seek clarifications from him on his claims, they said. Malik is not an accused or a suspect in the case so far, they said.

This is the second time in seven months that Malik, who has served as the governor of various states, will be quizzed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). His statement was recorded in October last year after he concluded his gubernatorial

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann says, "10% of crop loss compensation to go to labourers employed by farmers"

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Wrestlers Protest: Delhi Police agrees to register FIR against WFI president Brij Bhushan

Delhi Police on Friday apprised the Supreme Court that it agreed to register an FIR based on the allegations levelled by wrestlers against Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Delhi Police, apprised the SC bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud

that Delhi Police will register the FIR by this evening.

Appearing for the wrestlers, senior advocate Kapil Sibal urged the court to also issue directions to provide safety to a minor girl, one of the petitioner wrestlers, due to the threat to her. Sibal said he is worried about the safety of the minor girl and other wrestlers. SG Tushar Mehta said that all

these concerns can be addressed by the police. The top court directed Delhi police to make an adequate assessment of threat perception and provide security to minor girl, who is a gold medalist. The court also asked Delhi Police to file an affidavit mentioning steps taken to provide security to the minor girl. The court listed the matter for May 5. ANI

Delhi Court denies bail plea to Manish Sisodia in money laundering case



Delhi court on Friday dismissed the bail application of AAP leader Manish Sisodia in a money laundering case related to the alleged excise policy scam.

Special Judge M.K. Nagpal denied the relief to Sisodia, saying the stage was not fit to grant him bail. The judge had reserved the order after hearing arguments on Sisodia's plea seeking relief claiming that his custody was no longer required for investigation. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) had opposed the application, asserting the investigation was at a "crucial" stage and claiming the senior AAP leader had planted fabricated e-mails to show there was public approval for the policy. The federal agency also said it had found

fresh evidence of his complicity in the alleged crime.

The court had on March 31 dismissed Sisodia's bail application in a corruption case, being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), saying he was "prima facie, the architect" in the criminal conspiracy behind alleged payment of advance kickbacks of around Rs 90-100 crore meant for him and his colleagues in the Delhi government. The court had observed that the release of Sisodia, at the moment, would "adversely affect the ongoing investigation". The CBI and the ED had arrested Sisodia for alleged corruption in the formulation and execution of the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22 and for laundering the money so generated. PTI

SC quashes criminal case against Parkash Singh Badal; says summons issued was 'Abuse of process of Law'

The Supreme Court Friday quashed criminal proceedings against Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) patriarch Parkash Singh Badal, who died two days ago, and his son Sukhbir Singh Badal in a forgery case, saying the summon order issued by the trial court was "nothing but abuse of process of law". A bench of Justices M R Shah and C T Ravikumar, which had reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas filed by Badals and senior Akali leader Daljit Singh Cheema on April 11, quashed the summons issued by the Hoshiarpur trial court in Punjab and upheld by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

"The summoning order

passed by the trial court against the appellants (Badals and Cheema) is nothing but abuse of process of law," Justice Shah, who pronounced the verdict on behalf of the bench said. Akali stalwart Parkash Singh Badal died on Wednesday at a private hospital in Mohali. He was 95.

The Badals and Cheema had moved the top court challenging the August 2021 order of the Punjab and Haryana High Court refusing to quash the summons against them by additional chief judicial magistrate, Hoshiarpur in a private complaint filed by Social activist Balwant Singh Khara on the charges of forgery, cheating and concealing facts. PTI

World

Operation Kaveri: 11th batch of Indian nationals fly to Jeddah from Port Sudan



Under 'Operation Kaveri', another Indian Air Force C-130J flight took off from conflict-torn Sudan with 135 passengers onboard for Jeddah on Friday.

"Another IAF C-130J flight takes off from Port Sudan with 135 passengers onboard. This is the 11th batch of stranded Indians heading to Jeddah," Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

Earlier in the morning, the IAF C-130J flight on Friday(today) evacuated the 10th

batch of 135 Indian passengers from Port Sudan to Jeddah after the Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) agreed to extend their ceasefire amid ongoing violence in the capital Khartoum and the western Darfur region. "#OperationKaveri progresses further. 10th batch of evacuees with 135 passengers onboard IAF C-130J flight departs Port Sudan for Jeddah," tweeted the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson, Arindam Bagchi, informing about the evacuation.

This comes after the army said it would extend the ceasefire "for an additional 72 hours" following mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia and the United States in the final hours of the repeatedly broken three-day truce, due to end at midnight (22:00 GMT) on Thursday.

The RSF also said it approved the extended truce, adding that the proposal came from two diplomatic groupings that include the US, Saudi Arabia, Norway, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates.

On Thursday, warplanes patrolled over the capital's northern suburbs as fighters on the ground exchanged artillery and heavy machine-gun fire. The previous ceasefire has not stopped the fighting but created enough of a lull for tens of thousands of Sudanese, as well as, foreign nationals to leave for safer areas and for foreign nations to evacuate hundreds of their citizens by land and sea.

Def Min Rajnath Singh holds SCO meeting

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday held a bilateral meeting with his Belarusian counterpart Lieutenant General Viktor Gennadievich Khrenin, on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Delhi.

"Had fruitful discussions with the Defence Minister of Belarus, Lieutenant General Khrenin Victor Gennadievich in New Delhi," the Union Defence Minister tweeted on Friday.

Rajnath Singh earlier on Friday, held a bilateral with his Russian counterpart General Sergei K Shoigu. The two Ministers spoke



on a variety of topics related to bilateral defence cooperation, including industrial cooperation and military-to-military ties. They also discussed the Russian defence industry's participation in the 'Make in India' initiative and ways to provide further impetus to it, the Ministry of De-

fence said in an official statement

Earlier, Singh while addressing SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi said that India believes in maintaining peace and security based on UN Charter provisions and exhorted for concerted efforts to ensure win-win cooperation for great gain.

Toshakhana case: Pak court dismisses ousted PM Imran Khan's petitions against anti-corruption agency

Top court here has dismissed the petitions filed by ousted prime minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi against the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) call-up notices in the Toshakhana corruption case.

A two-member Islamabad High Court bench comprising Chief Justice Aamer Farooq and

Justice Babar Sattar on Thursday declared the petitions ineffective, The News International reported.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief has been in the cross-hairs for buying gifts, including an expensive Graff wristwatch he had received as the premier at a discounted price from the state depository called Toshakhana, and selling them for profit

He was disqualified by the Election Commission of Pakistan in October last year for not sharing details of the sales. The election body later filed a complaint with the district court to punish him, under criminal laws, for selling the gifts he had received as prime minister of the country. Khan has vehemently denied those charges.

Sudan: Armed Forces to extend ceasefire for another 72 hours



Trilateral Mechanism the Quad on Sudan released a joint statement on Sudan welcoming the announcement by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to extend the current ceasefire for an additional 72 hours.

Trilateral Mechanism, which includes the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the United Nations, and the Quad including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States, have released a joint statement in which they have welcomed the announcement of 72-hour ceasefire and called for its full implementation.

"Members of the Trilateral Mechanism and the Quad welcome the announcement by the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces to extend the current ceasefire for an additional 72 hours and call for its full implementation," the joint statement released by the US Department of State read.

"We also welcome their

readiness to engage in dialogue toward establishing a more durable cessation of hostilities and ensuring unimpeded humanitarian access. This initial phase of diplomacy to establish a process to achieve a permanent cessation of hostilities and humanitarian arrangements will contribute to action on the development of a de-escalation plan as outlined in the April 20 African Union communique, which was endorsed by the League of Arab States, the European Union, the Troika, and other bilateral partners," the statement read further.

The Sudanese army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) have agreed to extend their ceasefire amid ongoing violence in the capital Khartoum and the western Darfur region.

In the final hours of the repeatedly broken three-day truce, due to end at midnight (22:00 GMT) on Thursday, the army said it would extend the ceasefire "for an additional 72 hours" following mediation efforts by Saudi Arabia and the United States, Al Jazeera wrote.

BBC chairman Richard Sharp resigns over loan to Ex UK PM Boris Johnson

Richard Sharp, the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) chairman, resigned on Friday after it was discovered that he had concealed his role in helping to arrange a loan of roughly USD1 million for former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, according to CNN.

As the loan was taken before he was appointed director of the public broadcaster, he has previously denied involvement in the

arrangement and the possibility of a conflict of interest.

Weeks before the then-PM Johnson named Sharp for his role in 2021, the former banker faced pressure to resign after it was revealed that he served as an intermediary while Johnson was trying to get the loan.

According to CNN, the violation, according to Sharp, was "inadvertent and not material," but he insisted he was leaving to "prioritise the interests of the BBC."

Expression

World Veterinary Day: India's Livestock is the panacea of nutrition



Dr. Priyanka Saurabh

Research Scholar in Political Science- Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist

The practice of animal husbandry is no longer an option, but a necessity in the contemporary scenario. Its successful, sustainable, and efficient implementation will improve the socio-economic condition of the lower strata of our society. By linking animal husbandry with the food processing industry, agriculture, research, and patents, India has every potential to become the nutritional powerhouse of the world. Animal husbandry is an essential hope, a definite wish, and an essential panacea for India as well as the world.

Animal husbandry refers to the raising and selective breeding of livestock. It is the management and care of animals in which the genetic traits and behavior of animals are further developed for profit. India's livestock sector is the largest in the world. About 20.5 million people depend on livestock for their livelihood. Livestock contributes 16% to the income of small agricultural households, compared to an average of 14% for all rural households. Livestock provides livelihood to two-thirds of the rural community. It also employs about 8.8% of the population in India. India has vast livestock resources. The livestock sector contributes 4.11% of the GDP and 25.6% of the total agricultural GDP. Livestock income has become an important secondary source of income for rural households and has played an important role in achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income.

Livestock plays an important role in the economy of farmers. Farmers in India maintain a mixed farming system i.e. combination of crop and livestock where the output of one enterprise becomes the input of another enterprise thereby realizing resource efficiency. Livestock serves farmers in a variety of ways. Livestock is a source

of subsidiary income for many families in India, especially the resource-poor who keep a few heads of animals. Milking cows and buffaloes through the sale of milk will provide regular income to the cattle rearers. Animals like sheep and goats serve as a source of income to meet emergencies such as marriages, treatment of sick persons, education of children, repair of houses, etc. Animals also serve as moving banks and assets that provide economic security to owners.

Due to low literacy and unskilled, a large number of people in India depend on agriculture for their livelihood. But agriculture being seasonal can employ a maximum of 180 days in a year. People with little land depend on livestock to use their labor during the low agricultural season. Animal products such as milk, meat, and eggs are an important source of animal protein for members of pastoralists. The per capita availability of milk is about 355 g/day; Egg is 69/year;

The animals provide social security to the owners in terms of their status in society. Households especially landless who have animals, their condition is better than those who do not have animals. Gifting of animals is a very common phenomenon during weddings in different parts of the country. Animal husbandry is a part of Indian culture. Animals are used for various social and religious functions. sing for housewarming ceremonies; rams, deer, and chickens for sacrifice in the festive season; Bulls and cows are worshiped during various religious functions. Many owners develop an attachment to their animals.

Animal husbandry promotes gender equality. More than three-quarters of the labor demand in livestock production is met by women. The share of women's employment in the livestock sector is around 90% in Punjab and Haryana where dairying is a major activity and animals are stall-fed. Bulls are the backbone of Indian agriculture. Despite great progress in the use of mechanical power in Indian agricultural operations, Indian farmers, especially in rural areas, still



depend on oxen for various agricultural operations.

Bullocks are saving a lot on fuel which is an essential input for using mechanical power like tractors, combine harvesters, etc. Apart from oxen, pack animals like camels, horses, donkeys, mules, etc. are being used extensively for carrying goods in different parts of the country. In conditions such as hilly terrain, mules and ponies serve as the only options for transporting goods. Similarly, the army has to depend on these animals for the transportation of various items in high-altitude areas. In rural areas, cow dung is used for many purposes including fuel (dung cake), fertilizer (farm yard manure), and plastering material (poor man's cement).

Improving the productivity of farm animals is one of the major challenges. The average annual milk yield of Indian cattle is 1172 kg, which is about 50 percent of the world average. frequent outbreaks of diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease, black quarter infection; Influenza, etc. affect livestock health and reduce productivity. India's large population of ruminants contributes to the emission of greenhouse gases. A major challenge will be to reduce greenhouse gases through mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Crossbreeding of indigenous species with foreign stock has been successful only to a limited extent to increase the genetic potential of different species. Limited AI

services due to a lack of quality germplasm, infrastructure, and technical manpower coupled with poor conception rates after AI have been major constraints. The sector received about 12 percent of total public expenditure on agriculture and allied sectors, which is disproportionately low compared to its contribution to agricultural GDP. This sector has been neglected by financial institutions.

Meat production and markets: Similarly, slaughter facilities are inadequate. About half of the total meat production comes from unregistered, temporary slaughterhouses. The cost of marketing and transaction of livestock products is high at 15-20 percent of the selling price. With a growing population, continuous rise in food inflation, and agriculture being the primary occupation of the majority of India's population amidst an unfortunate rise in farmer suicides, the practice of animal husbandry is no longer an option, but a necessity in the contemporary scenario. Its successful, sustainable, and efficient implementation will improve the socio-economic condition of the lower strata of our society. By linking animal husbandry with the food processing industry, agriculture, research, and patents, India has every potential to become the nutritional powerhouse of the world. Animal husbandry is an essential hope, a definite wish, and an essential panacea for India as well as the world.

Entertainment



Find how Zendaya and Timothee Chalamet shoot sunset romantic scenes for 'Dune Part 2'

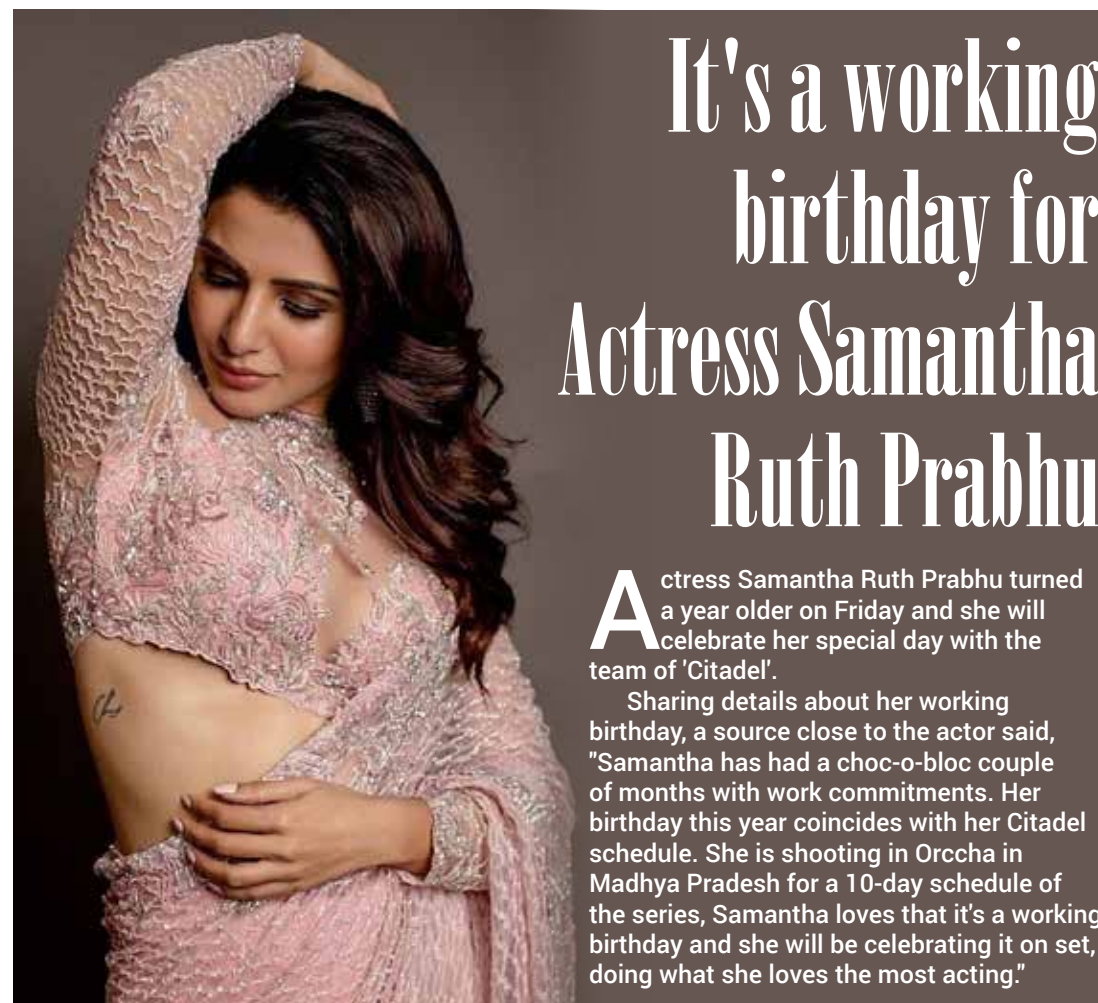
Zendaya and Timothee Chalamet realized love and romance in a futuristic universe is not so easy! It needs to be cultivated and discovered in a new way! The Euphoria star told in a recent interview while filming Dune: Part Two with Chalamet, "It was funny trying to figure out in this futuristic space talk, like, how do they flirt?" reported Hollywood Reporter, a US-based media company.

She said it was difficult at first trying to navigate the relationship between a space warrior and the young duke of a planet. Zendaya added that it was actually "funny because all of us were stumped. I think it's just as foreign to us as it probably is to the characters." "I was like, Does Chani get awkward?" the Spider-Man: Homecoming actress said. "Does that happen to her? Does she know what that feels like?" according to Hollywood Reporter. ANI

Singer Ed Sheeran sings snippets of "Thinking out loud" during copyright trial

'Shape of You' singer Ed Sheeran picked up a guitar and briefly sang for the Manhattan courtroom on Thursday during the trial settling the case of whether the singer's 'Thinking Out Loud' plagiarized the Marvin Gaye hit "Let's Get It On". Sheeran performed a bit of what he said was the first version of "Thinking Out Loud," as he and co-writer Amy Wadge developed it together at his home in England. The song's hook lyric was then -- as he sang it -- "I'm singing out now," according to musical testimony reported by ABC News.

According to Variety, Sheeran testified, "When I write vocal melodies, it's like phonetics," and showed "singing out now" became "thinking out loud." ANI



It's a working birthday for Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu turned a year older on Friday and she will celebrate her special day with the team of 'Citadel'.

Sharing details about her working birthday, a source close to the actor said, "Samantha has had a choc-o-bloc couple of months with work commitments. Her birthday this year coincides with her Citadel schedule. She is shooting in Orccha in Madhya Pradesh for a 10-day schedule of the series, Samantha loves that it's a working birthday and she will be celebrating it on set, doing what she loves the most acting."



Actor Manoj Bajpayee shares rare family picture on social media

Actor Manoj Bajpayee is a private person. He rarely shares glimpses of his personal life on social media. Interestingly, he recently treated fans to a fam-jam picture featuring his wife Shabana and daughter Ava Nayla.

In the Instagram image, Manoj is seen donning a white kurta set, while Shabana Raza is looking beautiful in traditional attire. Their daughter Ava looked adorable in a pastel green ethnic outfit.

The image shows the trio smiling for the camera. "Fam," he captioned the post, adding an evil eye emoji. Manoj's picture with wife and daughter garnered several likes and comments. "Lovely," actor Gajraj Rao commented. "Beautiful," filmmaker Shekhar Kapur wrote. Manoj married Shabana in 2006. Shabana was also an actor. She had acted in films like Kareeb and Fiza. ANI