

Editorial

Heart of the matter

The verdict was not entirely unexpected. The Seal-dah Civil and Criminal Court found the civic police volunteer, Sanjay Roy, guilty of the murder and rape of the trainee doctor in the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in August last year. The sentencing will take place on January 20. The verdict is truly welcome and helps keep faith in the justice system. It may have somewhat compensated for the time spent in investigation, which was frustrating to many who demanded justice for the doctor. The justice system must be seen to be unrelenting in rape-and-murder cases not only to reassure society but also as a deterrent to potential criminals. The judge said that he had criticised the hospital authorities and the police for their flaws in the handling of the grave crime. In many ways, these flaws were inexplicable: the information initially given to the family that the doctor had committed suicide, for example, or the delay in informing the police.

These and many other questions were raised by the massive crowds of protesters who took to the streets in Calcutta and elsewhere to demand justice for the doctor. The Delhi bus rape also saw protests but not on this scale. The protesters were suspicious of the government's role in supposedly protecting persons whom they believed to have either participated in the crime or had tried to cover up the truth, of the police's role and even of the nature of the probe carried out by the Central Bureau of Investigation. These questions were also raised by the protesting junior doctors, many of whom went on a prolonged hunger strike in the demands for justice and for the safety of doctors in medical institutions. Together this was an unprecedented popular movement — however fragmented it became later — that raised questions about the administration and the justice system. No judgment can be affected by popular pressure, however intense, but the verdict should satisfy the widespread cry for justice. Forensic evidence did not support the popular belief in multiple participants in the crime, and most of the other questions should be addressed by the hospital authorities and the police.

How far would a satisfactory verdict on a rape and murder that had a doctor inside a hospital as the target and an unprecedented popular protest movement help in preventing violence against women within and outside institutions? These come after the crime has been committed. What is needed is to prevent such crimes from taking place at all, which would mean a society that accepts women's status as equal to men in rights. The Aparajita Women and Child bill passed by the West Bengal government after the attack on the doctor also focuses on stringent penalties and accelerated justice processes. As long as the systemic roots of violence against women remain unaddressed, no penalty, however stringent, and no protest, however strong.

TikTok stares at darkness as court upholds ban in US

China-based mobile application, TikTok's fate in the US hangs in the balance after the Supreme Court upheld a law that could lead to a ban on the platform as soon as Sunday, CBS News reported.

The law passed with bipartisan support in April, cites national security concerns due to TikTok's data collection practices and ties to the Chinese government

However, TikTok's fate after Sunday's deadline arrives is still foggy. Following the ruling, the White House said the Biden administration would not enforce the ban on Sunday, and would leave it to the Trump administration.

President-elect Donald Trump wrote in a social media post that he would make his "decision on TikTok" in "the not too distant future," but that he "must have time to review the situation," as per CBS News.

"We conclude that the challenged provisions do not violate the petitioners' First Amendment rights," the court said in a unanimous unsigned opinion.

In a statement on Friday evening, TikTok said that "the statements issued today by both the Biden White House and the Department of Justice



have failed to provide the necessary clarity and assurance to the service providers that are integral to maintaining TikTok's availability to over 170 million Americans. Unless the Biden Administration immediately

provides a definitive statement to satisfy the most critical service providers assuring non-enforcement, unfortunately TikTok will be forced to go dark on January 19." Statement on Possible Shutdown

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The court's ruling came days before the law, which was passed with bipartisan majorities of Congress last April, is set to take effect.

TikTok and a group of content creators who use the app argued the law infringes on their free speech rights, and the Supreme Court heard arguments in their bid to block it one week ago. "There is no doubt that, for more than 170 million Americans, TikTok offers a distinctive and expansive outlet for expression, means of engagement, and source of community."

But Congress has determined that divestiture is necessary to address its well-supported national security concerns regarding TikTok's data collection practices and relationship with a foreign adversary," CBS reported, quoting the court's opinion. The US administration's concerns centre on TikTok's extensive data collection practices and its connections to the Chinese government.

Literature & Health

AI-driven technique analyses heart cells' inner electrical signals from outside: Study

A team of researchers led by the University of California, San Diego, and Stanford University has discovered a noninvasive approach for monitoring electrical activity inside cardiac muscle cells from the outside, without physically penetrating the cells.



The method is based on capturing electrical signals from outside the cells and using AI to reconstruct the signals within the cells with high precision. The electrical signals inside heart muscle cells provide insights into how the heart functions, how its cells communicate and how they respond to drugs. However capturing these signals typically involves puncturing the cells with tiny electrodes, which can damage them and make large-scale testing complicated. Now, researchers have found a way to peer inside the cells without actually going in. The key lies in extracting the relationship between the signals inside the cells (intracellular signals) and those recorded on their surface (extracellular signals). "We discovered that extracellular signals hold the information we need to unlock the intracellular features that we're interested in," said Zeinab Jahed, a professor in the Aiyso Yufeng Li Family Department of Chemical and NanoEngineering at UC San Diego, who is one of the study's senior authors. Keivan Rahmani, a nanoengineering Ph.D. student in Jahed's lab, is the first author of the study. While extracellular signals can be captured with less invasive methods, they do not provide much detail about the cell's electrical activity.

Slump in India's forex reserves continues

India's foreign exchange reserves (Forex) continue to decline, extending their slump for the sixth consecutive week, standing at USD 625.87 billion as of January 10, according to the weekly data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



As of January 10, the country's foreign exchange kitty declined by USD 8.72 billion to USD 625.871 billion, making its ten-month low, the latest data from the central bank showed.

The reserves had been falling ever since it touched an all-time high of USD 704.89 billion in September.

The reserves have been declining, likely due to RBI intervention aimed at aggressively preventing a

sharp depreciation of the rupee. The Indian rupee is now at its all-time low against the US dollar, falling above the 86 mark against the US dollar.

The latest RBI data showed that India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of forex reserves, stood at USD

536.011 billion.

Gold reserves currently amount to USD 67.883 billion, rising by USD 792 million, according to RBI data.

Despite a fall observed in recent months, the RBI in December assured that the forex reserves are sufficient to meet the more than 11 months of imports.

POEM

The Whispering Wind

What stories does the wind gather as it roams?

As I stand in the mid-way, it carries tales untold

A gentle murmur through the tree

It hums a lullaby to the restless sea

A melody of echoes sung by ancient singers

It reminds me of what's been lost and what still lingers

A fleeting embrace, both mending and wronging

In its breath, I find both solace and longing

A constant guide through paths I can't refuse

The whispering wind—my companion, my muse

Gauri Sardana

Receives 'special invitee' to attend Trump's inauguration: Deepika Deshwal

Guinness World Record holder Deepika Deshwal has received a "special invite" to attend the swearing-in ceremony of US President-elect Donald Trump on January 20.

Deshwal's name was etched in the Guinness Book of World Records for her selfless public service during the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic and for striving to safeguard and uphold women's rights, while in 2023, she became the youngest Indian to address the United Nations for the third time.

Sharing a post on X, Deshwal wrote, "Proud moment! Got the opportunity to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Donald Trump and Vice President in Washington DC as special invitee... Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!" Deshwal, the former secretary of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), has also



Sharing a post on X, Deshwal wrote, "Proud moment! Got the opportunity to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President Donald Trump and Vice President in Washington DC as special invitee... Jai Hind, Jai Bharat!" Deshwal, the former secretary of the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU), has also contested the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls in November 2022 as a Congress candidate.

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Notably, with temperatures expected to plummet in the United States, Trump announced a change in plans for his inauguration on January 20, saying all events will be held

inside the US Capitol Rotunda, as he is "obliged to protect the people."

Earlier, Ronald Reagan was similarly forced to take oath indoors in 1985 due to extreme weather.

Trump reassured supporters that the inauguration event would remain historic and memorable,

with the Presidential Parade and other activities continuing as planned, including live viewing at Capital One Arena.

Sharing a post on the social media platform Truth Social on Friday, Trump wrote, "January 20th cannot come fast enough! ... It is my obligation to protect the people of our country but, before we even begin, we have to think of the inauguration itself. The weather forecast for Washington, DC, with the windchill factor, could take temperatures into severe record lows. There is an Arctic blast sweeping the country. I don't want to see people hurt, or injured, in any way... Therefore, I have ordered the inauguration address, in addition to prayers and other speeches, to be delivered in the United States Capitol Rotunda, as was used by Ronald Reagan in 1985, also because of very cold weather..."

Glamour

COLDPLAY MUMBAI CONCERT: CHRIS MARTIN SAYS 'JAI SHRI RAM' AS HE NOTICES FAN'S POSTER



Chris, who is the band's vocalist, added "char chaand" to the show with his Hindi as well. After concluding one of his songs, he thanked the audience by saying "shukriya".

The most surprising element came when he said "Jai Shri Ram".

He was reading placards that fans held up during the concert. One of the placards read 'Jai Shri Ram'. Martin noticed it and read it loud, evoking cheer from the attendees. He also asked what it meant.

Ahead of the concert, Martin was spotted visiting the Shri Babulnath Temple with his partner and actor Dakota Johnson. Both opted for ethnic attire for their sacred visit.

The Indian leg of their Music of the Spheres tour is organised by BookMyShow Live.

Chris Martin-led British band left no stone unturned to mesmerise the crowd present at the DY Patil Stadium with their musical skills.

From singing their iconic songs such as 'Fix You' and 'A Sky Full of Stars' to turning the venue into a fairyland with colourful lights, elaborate designs and confetti cannons that showered the audience with carnival ribbons, the four happy-faced men gave all a feeling of joy and cheerfulness.

Coldplay kickstarted their India tour with a bang in Mumbai on Saturday evening.

Coldplay is scheduled to perform in Mumbai on Sunday and Tuesday as well. After Mumbai, they will head to Ahmedabad for two consecutive shows on January 25 and 26.

Henry Cavill welcomes first child with Natalie Viscuso

Congratulations are for Hollywood heartthrob Henry Cavill and his lovely partner Natalie Viscuso, as they have officially welcomed their little bundle of joy into the world!

The couple has embarked on an exciting new chapter in their lives as they proudly take on their new roles as parents.

While no additional details regarding the baby's name, gender, or birth date have been revealed, the couple was spotted in Australia on January 18, pushing a baby stroller, as per People magazine.

The couple were spotted enjoying a family outing in the country, where the actor is currently filming the live-action



'Voltron' movie. Cavill first shared the news of their growing family back in April 2024. Speaking at 'The Min-

istry of Ungentlemanly Warfare' premiere in New York City, he expressed his excitement about becoming a father.

"I'm very excited about it. Natalie and I are both very excited about it. I'm sure you'll see much more of that," Cavill told during an interview, according to People magazine. The actor also marked Father's Day later that year with an Instagram post seeking advice from his followers on parenting, while showcasing his enthusiasm and readiness for this new chapter of life. Cavill and Viscuso, a producer at Vertigo Entertainment, made their relationship public in April 2021. Sharing a playful moment on Instagram, Viscuso posted a photo of the two playing chess, humorously captioning it, "Just teaching my dear Henry how to play some chess...or...maybe he let me win."

Pankaj Tripathi's adorable gesture for wife Mridula at anniversary celebration

Actor Pankaj Tripathi and his wife Mridula marked their 21st wedding anniversary on January 15 with a warm celebration surrounded by family and close friends.

Taking to Instagram on Saturday, Mridula shared a video along with several pictures from the event.

The video showed the Mirzapur actor placing a ring on his wife's finger as he bowed before her with folded hands. The couple, later, can be seen hugging and cutting their anniversary cake together, while their guests cheered and clapped.

For the special day, Pankaj chose a beige kurta-pyjama paired with a traditional white jacket, while Mridula looked graceful in a yellow suit. Their daughter, Aashi Tripathi, was also present to join the festivities.

Along with the pictures, the actor added a caption that read, "As we turn 21" (followed by heart emojis).

Check out the post

Pankaj Tripathi, a graduate of the National School of Drama in Delhi, gained fame in Bollywood with his outstanding role in Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Wasseypur. Most recently, he received praise for his performance in Stree 2. The film also features Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkummar Rao, and stars Abhishek Banerjee and Aparshakti Khurana in crucial roles.

It was released on August 15, Independence Day 2024, alongside other big Hindi films such as Khel Khel Mein and Vedaa.

Directed by Amar Kaushik, Stree 2 has captivated audiences not only with its engaging storyline but also with star-studded cameos from Varun Dhawan and Akshay Kumar, both of whom have been praised for their contributions to the film.

My Talent Hunt App hosts grand talent showcase



CHANDIGARH: My Talent Hunt App proudly hosted a spectacular event featuring its flagship competitions, Dance Mania and Singing Sensation, in the presence of celebrity judges Dharmesh Yelande, Master Saleem, and Kumar Sahil. The event was graced by Sh. Iqbal Singh Larpura, Chairman of the National Commission, member of the BJP Parliamentary Board, and former IPS officer, as the esteemed Chief Guest.

The event brought together the brightest talents from across India, showcasing their skills after a rigorous more than one-month online audition process. A total of 12 contestants competed for the Dance Mania title, while 10 contestants vied for the Singing Sensation crown, presenting breathtaking performances that captivated the audience.

Mr. Deepinder Pal Singh Grewal, Founder of My Talent Hunt App and Director of Lamlord Ventures Pvt.Ltd, expressed his vision for the initiative, stating, "The



purpose of this event is to offer fresh talents a stage to display their abilities. We believe in empowering the next generation of stars by giving them a platform to shine."



As finalists battled it out for the ultimate glory, the event reaffirmed its mission to nurture and celebrate emerging talent. The winners of the competition were awarded with Cash prize of 1 lakh

for 1st position, 31 thousand for runner up and 11 thousand for the 3rd position in each category. In this event about 10 Social media influencers were awarded as the best creator.

Star-Studded Premiere of the Most Awaited Punjabi Comedy Film "Choraan Naal Yaarian"

The glitz and glamour of the Punjabi film industry took center stage at the star-studded premiere of the much-awaited comedy film Choraan Naal Yaarian. The event, held at a prestigious venue, was a grand affair, marking the launch of this highly anticipated movie. The premiere was graced by prominent Punjabi film industry figures, including actor Gurpreet Ghuggi, Hobby Dhaliwal, and Malkeet Rauni, who made special appearances to support the film.



Presented by Alpine & Sidhu Motion Pictures, Choraan Naal Yaarian is a delightful blend of comedy, friendship, and drama, promising to be a treat for Punjabi movie lovers.

The film is written by Rishi Malhi and directed by Naseeb Randhawa and Gurdeep Singh Sidhu. The talented cast, led by Arya Babbar, Manpreet Sran, Prabh Grewal, Malkeet Rauni, Gurpreet Bhangu, and Rupinder Rupi, brings the hilarious and heartwarming story to life on the big screen.

The premiere was graced by several celebrities, filmmakers, and key industry figures, adding to the excitement surrounding the release. With its engaging plot, stellar performances, and vibrant direction, Choraan Naal Yaarian is poised to captivate audiences worldwide. The film is now screening in cinemas globally, with worldwide distribution by The Next Film Studios. Don't miss this incredible comedy experience that promises laughter and entertainment in abundance.

"Rishte Naate": Jass and Reet's Rollercoaster Journey of Love, Laughter, and Reuniting, the film is releasing in cinemas on 24th Jan. 2025



The much-awaited trailer launch of the Punjabi film "Rishte Naate" was marked by a star-studded press conference in Mohali, drawing fans and media alike. The event featured the film's stellar cast, including Raghbir Singh, Love Gill, Malkeet Rauni, Parminder Gill, Gurpreet Mand, and Sunita Dhir.

The cast shared exclusive glimpses of the film, which promises to be a heartfelt portrayal of family ties, emotional bonds, and the importance of relationships in today's fast-paced world. Speaking at the event, lead actor Raghbir Singh described the film as "a celebration of the essence of togetherness," while Love Gill highlighted her role as "a reflection of contemporary family dynamics." Directed by Naseeb Randhawa and produced by Kashmir Singh Sohal and Kuljit Singh Khalsa, Rishte Naate is a cinematic ode to the enduring power of familial love and connection.

Veteran actor Malkeet Rauni praised the film's meaningful storytelling, expressing their excitement about bringing such a relatable narrative to the audience. This is a story every family will see themselves in. It's emotional, relatable, and uplifting."

Producers Kashmir Singh Sohal and Kuljit Singh Khalsa, expressed their pride in the project, stating, "This film is a labor of love, designed to resonate with anyone who values the bonds of family and friendship. We're thrilled to bring this story to life. Rishte Naate isn't just a film; it's a reminder of what truly matters in life – our relationships." "Rishte Naate" is set to release in cinemas on 24th Jan 2025.

Many stars, including Babu Maan, attended the premiere, which will be available in nine languages starting from January 24



CHANDIGARH: The Punjabi OTT platform's film 'Gurmukh: The Eye Witness' had its premiere on Friday at Bestek Square Mall. Singer Babu Maan and many other artists attended the event. This film will be available for streaming in nine languages exclusively on KableOne's starting January 24, 2025.

Gurmukh: The Eye Witness is an intriguing thriller that explores themes of justice, morality, and the power of a person's testimony. Directed by Pali Bhpinder Singh and starring Kuljinder Singh Sidhu and Sara Guralp, the film marks another milestone in KableOne's commitment to providing high-quality original content.

At the premiere event, a red carpet event took place at Bestek Mall, with the entire film team, crew, and special guests from the entertainment industry in attendance. Sharing his thoughts on the film and its premiere, Simranjeet Singh Manchanda, CEO of KableOne, said that the film represents the impactful and meaningful stories they aim to deliver to their audience.

Premiere of 'Gurmukh: The Eye Witness' at Bestek Square Mall. At the premiere of Gurmukh: The Eye Witness, several artists, including Babu Maan, attended the event at Bestek Square Mall.

Sonu Sood's 'Fateh' emerges surprise hit, wins hearts for its music, high-octane stunts

Actor Sonu Sood's latest film 'Fateh' has turned out to be a sleeper hit and is being praised for its story, stunning action sequences, and, of course, the music. What makes the Sonu Sood-directed action-drama stand out is its ₹30 crore budget, which proves that a great film doesn't always need a big price tag or an A-list cast to succeed. The film revolves around the fight against cybercrime and has struck a chord with moviegoers. The film is inspired by real-life events during the COVID-19 pandemic.

One of Fateh's biggest draws is its action sequences. International stunt director Lee Whittaker, known for 'Captain Marvel' and 'Fast & Furious 5', choreographed the high-octane stunts for the film.

The sequences have been shot in locations including Istanbul, Dubai, and the US. Earlier, while speaking to ANI, Sood, who has been an action star for most of his acting career, shared that he spent a lot of time writing the action scenes for the film and recalled an action scene that took 2.5 months during the making of the film. "When you become director, then you can write actions. I wrote each action scene including if the character would be hit with a plate or spoon or pen or drill.

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