



30 Naxalites neutralised in Chhattisgarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ New Delhi/Bijapur/Kanker (Chhattisgarh)

In a fresh offensive against Naxals, security forces killed at least 30 members of the banned CPI (Maoist) in two separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Thursday...

Cials said while 26 Naxalites were killed in Bijapur district, four Maoists were gunned down in Kanker by a joint team of the BSF and District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel of the state police.



Security personnel during an encounter with Naxalites in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh PTI

ation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said. The bodies of four Naxalites and automatic weapons were recovered following the action, he said...

However, during the tenure of the Narendra Modi government from 2014 to 2024, the number of violent incidents decreased by 53 per cent, dropping to 7,744, the statement said.



Concrete barricades being removed after the eviction of agitating farmers from the Shambhu border in Patiala district PTI

Farmers protest site razed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chandigarh

After Punjab Police detained protesting farmers and demolished their temporary structures, traffic resumed on the Shambhu-Ambala Highway on Thursday after more than a year...

national capital. Thus, the traffic on the Shambhu-Ambala and Sangrur-Jind roads remained closed for over a year. On Thursday, security personnel from Haryana removed the cement barricades on their side of Shambhu-Ambala Highway...

SC reprieve for acid attack victims over compensation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In a landmark Order, the Supreme Court on Thursday said acid attack survivors could approach their respective State Legal Services Authority in case there was a delay in receiving compensation.

bench said the delay in the disbursement of the compensation to acid attack survivors will be brought to its notice. Observing the Centre and 11 states hadn't filed their replies to the petition, the top court granted them four weeks and posted the hearing in the May 5 week.



SC observes the Centre and 11 states hadn't filed their replies to the petition, the top court granted them four weeks and posted the hearing in the May 5 week

amount, the plea also sought that the acid attack survivors should be heard by a fast-track court. Despite the top court's order mandating an additional ₹1 Lakh compensation along with the ₹3 Lakh minimum compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme 2016...

MLAs face Babugiri, says Delhi Speaker

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

Citing instances where senior bureaucrats at the helm of Delhi government departments were not making themselves available for communication with MLAs, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has written to Chief Secretary Dharmendra about how heads of government departments under them should deal with newly-elected legislators.

compliance to the norms. "...Action taken in this regard may be intimated to me at the earliest," he said. The Speaker also sought to be updated about action taken in the matter. Reacting to Gupta's letter, AAP leader and former minister Saurabh Bharadwaj took a dig at the BJP, accusing them of enabling bureaucratic defiance for years.

expected to align with the new administration and heed the elected government and lawmakers, and Gupta's letter serves as a reminder of just this. The Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure lays down instructions for prompt disposal of references from Members of Parliament and State Legislatures.

Israel pounds Gaza again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Deir-Al-Balah (Gaza Strip)

Israeli strikes killed at least 85 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip overnight and into Thursday, according to local health officials. The strikes hit multiple homes in the middle of the night, killing men, women and children as they slept.

Team India to get ₹58 crore cash reward from BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The BCCI on Thursday announced a cash reward of ₹58 Crore for the Indian cricket team that won the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this month in Dubai. The Rohit Sharma-led India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the final to grab their third Champions Trophy title.



In fact, it was India's third ICC trophy in the last eight months as they had won the last year's T20 World Cup, beating South Africa in the final. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said the victory justified India's top-ranking in white ball formats.

then secured a convincing six-wicket triumph against Pakistan. They continued their momentum with a 44-run victory over New Zealand before overcoming Australia by four wickets in the semi-final.

Elon Musk's X sues Centre over content blocking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru

Social media giant 'X' (formerly Twitter), owned by US billionaire Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit in the Karnataka High Court against Government of India, challenging what it called unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship. It raised concerns over the Centre's interpretation of the Information Technology (IT) Act, particularly its use of Section 79(3)(b), which 'X' argues violates Supreme Court rulings and undermines free expression online.





















## Between Giggles and Goodbyes

A heartfelt collection of vignettes capturing the humour, warmth, and depth of a mother-daughter bond, writes **SWATI PAL**

Writing about the parent — child bond or about children growing up, is no easy task. One can descend to complete sentimentality or become a dead bore. Reading 'Din about Chins, Vignettes about Mother-Daughter,' penned by the prolific author, **Santosh Bakaya** was thus an extremely invigorating experience. Not only does she write with great ease but her writing has a remarkable blend of wit and philosophy, making the reader both smile as well as tear up. Santosh Bakaya has to be met with. I did. She is so full of life and empathy. Her laughter and the warmth in her eyes hold the promise of friendship and a deep-rooted generosity of spirit.

The book begins with a poem, 'Hush what is that?' extracted from Learning and Creativity (pub 2016) which will tug at your heartstrings. The too true and sweet narrative of a feisty mom chasing her daughter to put on socks, will fill any parent with nostalgia. The role reversal at the end will bring a sigh and a wistful smile to your face. The poem sets the tone for the vignettes. Words have a certain tempo as they are penned by Santosh Bakaya, they seem to gurgle and splash around and one of the devices that help in doing this is her use of alliteration such as 'Giggling at a gaggle of geese', 'plucky pups, the mischievous monkeys, the grandiose green of the gulmohar'. The words have a rhyme and rhythm as one can see in the initial 'From the Writers Desk' and the overall effect is captivating. She manages to encapsulate the life of her daughter from birth to late teens and the reader will feel as if the child is someone s/he knows. One can picture the child prancing around to the melody of her favourite Bollywood number, one can hear her ribbing her mother (what an amazing variety of names she has for her mother) and admonishing her for being loud or not so aptly dressed. The daughter is special and yet could well be any daughter...so universal is the appeal in the way she has been described by Santosh Bakaya. The elation of being a loved and needed mother, the

desire to understand every mood at every moment of her daughter's life, the mixed feelings of reluctance to let go and yet, the pride at seeing the larger universe to which her daughter belongs - Bakaya may be writing about herself but in many ways, she has written for every mother.

The title vignette is droll, just like Santosh Bakaya's humour. You discover why there is a din about chins in the Bakaya household and you enter the family not as a voyeur but as an invisible member. Iha is mercurial and you will love her as much as Santosh does. And you will be curious to know more about the personal lives of all the members of the family, so subtly does Bakaya draw you within its folds.

Memories jostle with one another and Bakaya moves effortlessly as well as with speed between them. 'Of Teddy bears, calories and clouds' is one such example of Iha as a little girl imagining herself to be a teddy bear in a ditty used by her mother to make her walk and years later, the mother recalling those times. Iha now has complete control of her life and the mother grasps at the memories of her little girl, almost as if she is clutching on to a time when she called the shots for her daughter. There is profundity in the moving simplicity of narration - the philosophy that time and tide wait for nobody and that all we have are memories of time past; the umbilical cord between mother and child remains unseen but strong, understood by both and expressed at times. Another vignette that is touching even as it is written with



Bakaya's characteristic wry humour is 'Oh the horror of it!' One never forgets the lisping of children and parents always remain the safest refuge for children, no matter how grown up they are, that's what this beautiful vignette lovingly underlines.

As said earlier, Iha is mercurial and you will fall in love with her. Capricious of temperament, she is generous and will give the shirt off her back if needed as she does in the vignette, 'Red towel' and at the same time, she is grounded, not forgetting to scold her father for appearing in front of the domestic help, in, of all things, a red towel! The remarkable blend of wicked humour camouflaging a deep thoughtfulness is all too evident in the next vignette, 'I want you to have

### LANGUAGE, LOVE, HARMONY

The vignette, 'Why are you teaching her Urdu?' seems a little different at first reading as it foregrounds the perpetuation of hate politics between India and Pakistan and the politicising of language. It is a significant vignette putting into focus the author's views about cross border conflict and harmony. But it is young Iha's questions, 'How can one hate a language, mom?' or again, 'Why attack music, is it not the food of love?' that will haunt the reader. Many of the Vignettes will bring a tear to the eyes of the reader or a lump in the throat as does 'Yummy mummy anything for a hungry tummy' while there is poetic strain all along, most evident in such vignettes as 'The fantastic feat of feisty feet'.

a good time,' in which the reader is amused, both by Iha's antics as much as by the author mother who ends the vignette with the lines. 'As she left the room, I furtively bent down to salvage my fallen jaw from the ground. No, she did not turn back to see me stooping so.' Again, in 'The Inside Story' we are enchanted by Iha's glee at her first tattoo and her matter-of-fact attitude at having got a scholarship for her essay.

Iha, like children do, constantly surprises her mother and teaches her more than she knows. We see the author invariably wondering why she hadn't thought of something that Iha did, as we see in 'Is Christmas already around the corner?' Memories of these lessons learnt may make the author lachrymose as she admits readily but for the reader, it is again a sharp reminder that indeed, the child IS father of the man. In the vignette 'Injustice', the author observes about Iha, 'Injustice anywhere was, of course, a threat to justice everywhere, she has realised that, and could not tolerate belligerence in any form'. Over and over again we see Iha's generosity as she abundantly gives away her newly bought hoodies in the vignette, 'Which brand?'

Many of the Vignettes are quirky and end unexpectedly; the title arouses your curiosity and makes you think along a certain direction, but the ending is like a jack in the box, popping up to tickle your funny bone. You will need to read 'Love never dies' to understand this observation.

There is a lot of bantering between mother and daughter, sharper because of a shared bond over language and literature. While we see that in many Vignettes, it is pronounced in 'Theflurry about egg curry'. We see this even in 'I am jiggled', a vignette that shows the camaraderie between the mother and the daughter and the Roald Dahl connect.

There are lessons to be learnt from these Vignettes, Institutions need to be careful about the mental health of their students, else they may scar children forever.

(The author is the Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi)

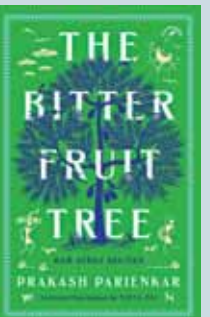
### STORIES EVERYWHERE FOUND

Many of the vignettes have Iha saying that her mother should concentrate on food and not listen in on conversations of others, for food for thought. But it is clear that Santosh Bakaya finds a story everywhere and in everything, be it dins about chins or her daughter, Iha. And we all love a good storyteller.

### MARCH READS



Book: Goa  
Author: Subodh Kerkar, Kunal Ray  
Publisher: Aleph Book  
Price: ₹595



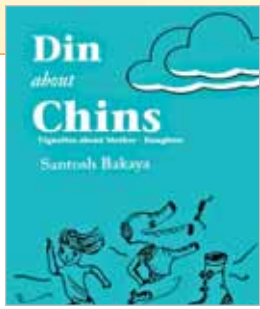
Book: The Bitter-Fruit Tree  
Author: Prakash Parienkar  
Publisher: Niyogi Books  
Price: ₹370



Book: Each Little Bird That Sings  
Author: Jayantika Dave  
Publisher: Rupa  
Price: ₹495



Book: Futuresmith  
Author: James Allen  
Publisher: Rupa  
Price: ₹250



#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Din about Chins  
Author: Santosh Bakaya  
Publisher: Penprints, Kolkata, 2025  
Price: ₹450/-



### NEW LAUNCH

## POETRY THAT SETS YOU FREE

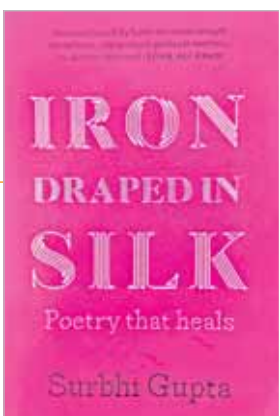
'Mother, why can't I be like them? Because you are meant to be you.'

BY TEAM VIVA

These words, simple yet powerful, set the tone for 'Iron Draped in Silk: Poetry that Heals' by **Surbhi Gupta**. The collection is a heartfelt exploration of self-acceptance, resilience, and the quiet power of embracing one's own identity. With verses that peel away the layers of doubt and societal expectations, Gupta urges the reader to trust in their own magic, to stand firm in their truth.

One of the most moving sections, 'Trust the Magic' Within You, is beautifully complemented by perfect illustrations of a mother and daughter, capturing the essence of love, reassurance, and the strength passed down through generations. The poetry within this section speaks to every person who has ever questioned their worth, reminding them that their existence is not meant to be measured against others but celebrated for its own unique brilliance.

In pieces like "You are you, not them!", she challenges the reader to let go of external validation and embrace the freedom of self-acceptance. The emotions are raw, the words unfiltered, carrying the weight of lived experiences. In one particularly striking poem, a woman looks into the mirror, seeing herself as she once was, content, unbothered by others' opinions, only to realise how easily she let external voices shatter her confidence. But through self-love, she rebuilds, proving that healing is possible when one learns to nurture the soul within. For every woman who has ever felt unheard, unseen, or unworthy, This book is a reminder that strength and softness can coexist. With its deeply emotional verses and evocative illustrations, it speaks to the heart, offering comfort, courage, and a quiet revolution, one where women reclaim their voices, their confidence, and their right to be exactly who they are.



#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Iron Draped in Silk  
Author: Surbhi Gupta  
Publisher: White Falcon Publishing  
Price: ₹699/-

## Turning Pages into Painting

A definitive tribute, 'Bimal Das Gupta: An Ode to a Legend,' explores his artistic evolution, abstract mastery, and enduring legacy in modernism, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Bimal Das Gupta's legacy is one that deserves far more recognition than it has received over the years. A pioneer of abstraction in Indian modernism, he defied artistic conventions, mastering multiple mediums with an effortless fluidity that set him apart. On the occasion of his 30th death anniversary, *Bimal Das Gupta: An Ode to a Legend* pays tribute to his extraordinary contributions, offering a deep dive into his artistic journey and the sheer brilliance of his work.

Edited and curated by **Archana Khare Ghose** and curated by **Vikram Mayor**, Art Curator of Gallery Silver Scapes, and **Uday Jain**, Art Curator of Dhoomimal Gallery, the book is a comprehensive collection of essays, archival material, and personal anecdotes. It features contributions from notable art critics, historians, and artists, including **Ashok Vajpeyi**, **Ina Puri**, **Prayag Shukla**, and **Niren Sengupta**, each offering unique perspectives on Gupta's impact on Indian modernism. The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) has also contributed images from its permanent collection, reinforcing his place in India's artistic history.

The book meticulously traces Gupta's artistic evolution, starting with his early watercolours from the 1930s, where his deep connection to nature is evident. His landscapes from this period, such as the Fantasy series, demonstrate his mastery of light and composition. His fascination with marine landscapes, developed from his frequent travels by ship, is reflected in his seascapes from 1970 to 1982, capturing the ever-changing moods of the ocean. The book also highlights his experimentation with Neo-Tantric abstraction in the late 1960s, where symbols, dots, and strokes of red evoke deeper philosophical meanings, as seen in *Prakriti*.

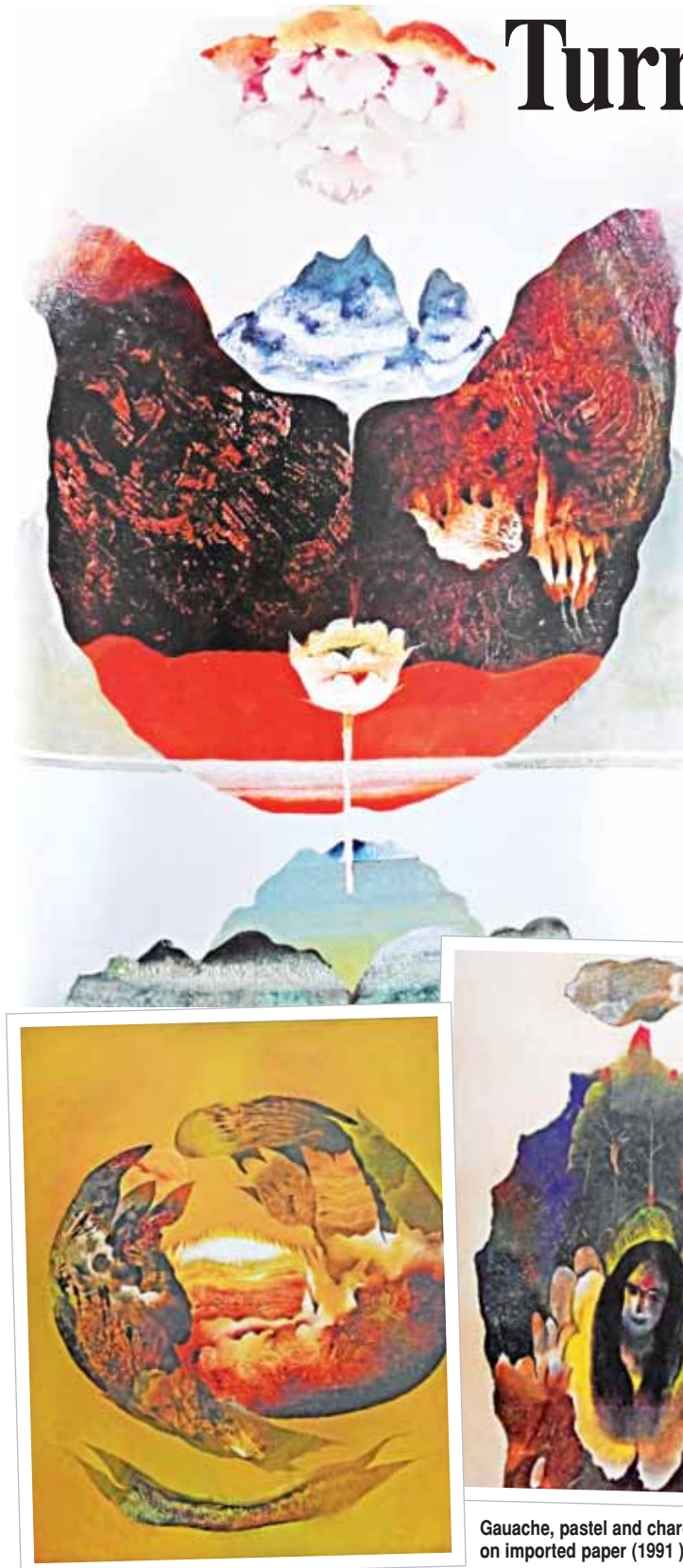


His shift from figuration to abstraction is explored through essays that detail his influences—from the landscapes of Bengal and Rajasthan to his exposure to European modernism during his travels to Poland, Germany, and France. This period marked a turning point in his career, inspiring semi-abstract and fully abstract compositions such as *Houses*, a constructivist cityscape that showcases his evolving artistic language.

The book includes rare archival material, such as a 1949 oil painting that demonstrates his early forays into abstraction, blending cubist influences with Indian motifs.

'The Cosmic Dance', an abstract interpretation of Shiva and Parvati, is another highlight, capturing movement and energy through vibrant colour choices. His later works from the 1980s, particularly his acrylic pieces, reveal a striking interplay of opacity and transparency, imitating the wash-like effect of watercolours.

Through *Bimal Das Gupta: An Ode to a Legend*, his story resurfaces with renewed vigour. The book offers an in-depth understanding of his artistic brilliance, celebrating an artist who saw beyond form and colour, capturing the essence of nature and abstraction in a way that remains unparalleled.



Gauache, pastel and charcoal on imported paper (1991)



#### ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: An Ode to a Legend  
Publisher: Gallery Silver Scapes & Dhoomimal Gallery  
Price: ₹5000/-

## BCCI lifts saliva ban in IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The BCCI on Thursday lifted the ban on use of saliva on the ball in the upcoming Indian Premier League after a majority of captains agreed to its proposal, making it the first major cricket competition to do away with the restriction that was a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision was taken at the captains' meeting in Mumbai ahead of the league starting on Saturday.

"The saliva ban has been lifted. Majority of captains were in favour of the move. Some had reservations about the re-introduction, some sat on the fence but majority of them supported the move," a top BCCI official said.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) had banned the age-old practice of applying saliva to shine the ball as a precautionary measure during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which health practitioners advocated strict hygiene protocols and physical distancing.

In 2022, the world body made the ban permanent. The IPL too included the ICC ban in its playing conditions in the aftermath of the pandemic but its guidelines are outside the purview of the sport's governing body.

With the development on Thursday, the IPL became the first major cricketing event to re-introduce saliva's use after the pandemic. The captains meeting, which was scheduled to begin at 12.30 pm in Mumbai, did not start on time due to a delay in arrival of a few team officials at the BCCI



office. Now that the ban is revoked in the IPL, the ICC too might review its stance on the subject.

On the sidelines of the ICC Champions Trophy, senior India pacer Mohammed Shami had spoken about the need to use saliva on the ball in what has become a predominantly batters' game.

The likes of Vernon Philander and Tim Southee had backed Shami's call.

"We keep appealing that we should be allowed to use saliva so that we can bring reverse swing back into the game and it becomes interesting," Shami had said during the 50-over event in Dubai, where India emerged victorious.

Also on the agenda of captains' meeting was the contentious Impact Player rule which the BCCI had already extended till at least 2027.

The likes of Rohit Sharma and more

recently Hardik Pandya have expressed their reservations on the playing strategy.

"While a few have raised objections on the Impact Player rule, it has benefitted uncapped batters and bowlers who otherwise won't get to play," the official said.

DRS extended to height and off-side wides The BCCI also approved the use of DRS for height wides and wides outside the off-stump.

"Hawk eye and ball tracking will be used to decide on the height wides and wides outside the off-stump," the official added.

It was also decided that one ball will be changed in the second innings of an evening game after the 11th over due to dew.

"This is not a rule change, it's just an understanding for this year between teams and umpires. The changed ball will have wear and tear," an official said.

## 2028 games to be catalyst for rebuild: LA Olympics head Casey Wasserman

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Costa Navarino

After deadly fires devastated much of Los Angeles, organisers of the 2028 Olympics told the IOC on Thursday how the city will rebuild with help from the Games. Count on Kendrick Lamar, too, to be part of "the greatest show on earth" in three years.

"The rebirth, the rebuild, maybe reimagining LA 2.0 and the Olympics as a catalyst for all those things we think is really part of our ethos," organising committee chairman Casey Wasserman said.

"You can't have a natural disaster at that scale in a city as big and as important as Los Angeles and not have it be part of your core philosophy going forward," he said in an interview before giving sports leaders an update at the International Olympic Committee's annual meeting.

Lamar would be a globally popular part of the opening ceremony on July 14, 2028, after his stunning halftime show at the Super Bowl last month.

"Fortunately in my day job I represent Kendrick Lamar," said Wasserman, who heads an international talent and promotions agency. "He is truly an LA icon so I think it would be a pretty fair bet that Kendrick will be involved in the Olympics in Los Angeles in some way."

The wildfires in January have reset the daily life and global perception of the city. "Everyone loves a comeback story,"

Wasserman told IOC members on Thursday. Olympic venues and operational plans escaped serious damage.

"From purely an Olympics perspective we got very lucky. That's not the most important thing," Wasserman told the AP on Wednesday. "What's important is helping people get back into their homes, get back settled, get back with their lives."

**You can't have a natural disaster at that scale in a city as big and as important as LA and not have it be part of your core philosophy going forward**

— CASEY WASSERMAN, CHAIRMAN

Olympic athlete visas another expected challenge for LA organisers is ensuring athletes, officials and fans from every Olympic team feel welcome and safe going to the United States in what shapes to be a turbulent future for the world.

"Irrespective of politics today, America will be open and accepting to all 209 countries for the Olympics," Wasserman said. "LA is the most diverse city in the history of humanity and we will welcome the people from around the world and give them all a great time."

Updating IOC and sports leaders on Thursday, Wasserman said his team made "significant strides" with President Donald Trump's administration, which has security obligations for the Olympics and subsequent Paralympics.

"I have met with President Trump and his team both prior to his inauguration and again last month," the LA Olympics leader said. "We have a regular cadence across all federal agencies with leadership from the president to make sure that these Games deliver for all our constituents."

The US Visa programme and current restrictions for more than 40 countries who should compete in LA was the subject of a sharp question from IOC member Ingrid Isaković, the equestrian official who leads the collective group of Summer Games sports bodies. De Vos cited a "red list" ban on travel to the US from 11 countries. "I don't anticipate any, any problems from any countries to come and participate," Wasserman replied, noting the US State Department has a "fully staffed desk" to help prepare.

"In my many conversations with President Trump and Secretary (Marco) Rubio they understand the scale and complexity required to deliver these Games, the access required for not just athletes but for delegations, and the incredibly short time frame on which to do those."

Wasserman insisted "with all due respect to FIFA," visa issues for the Olympics are more complicated than for the World Cup in men's soccer than the U.S. is co-hosting next year with Canada and Mexico.

His audience included IOC member Gianni Infantino, the FIFA president who has closely aligned himself with Trump.

## Ex-F1 team owner Eddie Jordan passes away at 76

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Shanghai

Ex-Formula 1 team owner and media personality Eddie Jordan has died, according to a statement by his family. He was 76.

Often known simply as "EJ," he ran his own Jordan team in the 1990s and 2000s in F1. His humor, strong opinions and often extravagant dress sense made Jordan a popular pundit on TV after selling the team in 2005.

Jordan was undergoing treatment for what he had called "quite aggressive" cancer of the bladder and prostate which spread to his spine and pelvis.

The family statement, published by rugby club London Irish, where Jordan was a patron, said he "passed away peacefully with family by his side in Cape Town" early Thursday. "EJ brought an abundance of charisma, energy and Irish charm everywhere he went. We all have a huge hole missing without his presence. He will be missed by so many people, but he leaves us with tonnes of great memories to keep us smiling through our sorrow."

F1 president and chief executive Stefano Domenicali, who was a senior Ferrari employee when Jordan owned his team, said Jordan was "a protagonist of an era of F1 and he will be deeply missed."

"With his inexhaustible energy he always knew how to make people smile, remaining genuine and brilliant at all times."

Irish businessman Jordan operated his own racing team in lower-level series before moving up to F1 in 1991, giving future seven-time champion Michael Schumacher his first race that year.

Jordan gave Schumacher his break in F1 because his regular driver Bertrand Gachot was sentenced to prison for assaulting a London taxi driver. The then-22-year-old Schumacher was with the team for only a single race before

Benetton signed him in controversial circumstances.

"I am deeply saddened by the loss of Eddie Jordan. Eddie was a great individual, who for decades always brought a smile to the entire F1 paddock," said Flavio Briatore, who then ran Benetton and became a close friend of Jordan, and is now executive adviser at Alpine.

"I have fond memories of the time spent on and off the track with Eddie, and his presence across the entire F1 world will be greatly missed." Other Jordan drivers over the years included Damon Hill, who won the 1996 championship with Williams and gave Jordan its first win in torrential rain in 1998, future Ferrari driver Rubens Barrichello, and Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who was third in the championship for Jordan in 1999.

Jordan Grand Prix won four races before Jordan sold the team in 2005. Following more sales and name changes since then, the team competes as Aston Martin.

"Eddie Jordan was one of the all-time motorsport greats. He was a one-off, a wonderful human being, and a charismatic leader who founded this team and took it to F1 in 1991," Aston Martin team principal Andy Cowell said in a statement. "His vision laid the foundations for us and he leaves a lasting legacy for the entire motorsport community."

Jordan also acted as the manager for car design great Adrian Newey when he left Red Bull for Aston Martin last year.

When he revealed his cancer diagnosis last year, Jordan used it as an opportunity to urge listeners of his podcast to follow up on any health concerns.

"This is a little message to everybody listening to this, don't waste or put it off," he said. "Go and get tested, because in life you have got chances."



## Chahal, Dhanashree granted divorce

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

A family court here on Thursday allowed the joint plea filed by cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal and his estranged wife seeking divorce by mutual consent.

The estranged couple appeared before the family court in Bandra. Chahal's advocate Nitin Gupta said the family court has granted decree on the joint petition filed by Chahal and Verma for divorce by mutual consent.

The court noted that the parties have complied with the consent terms.

"The family court has accepted the joint petition filed by Chahal and Verma seeking divorce by mutual consent," Gupta said. Chahal and Verma got married in December 2020. As per their petition, they separated in June 2022.

On February 5, they filed a joint petition before the family court seeking divorce by mutual consent. The Bombay High Court on Wednesday requested the family court to decide the divorce plea by Thursday, considering the fact that Chahal would not be available

later as he is participating in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament.

The IPL T20 cricket tournament is scheduled to start from March 22. Chahal is part of the Punjab Kings team. The HC on Wednesday also waived the six-month cooling period stipulated for every couple after filing of the divorce plea under the Hindu Marriage Act.

The cricketer and Verma had filed a joint petition before the HC, seeking that the cooling-off period be waived in their case as they have applied for divorce by mutual consent.

The petition, filed through advocate Nitin Gupta, had also prayed for a direction to the family court to decide the divorce petition expeditiously. The couple challenged the family court order of February 20 refusing to waive the cooling-off period.

Under the Hindu Marriage Act, a couple has to undergo six-month cooling-off period before divorce is granted. The objective is to provide time for exploring the possibility of reconciliation.

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