

## JAI MAA SAMALEI

With The Divine Blessings of Maa Samalei  
'Samalei Prakalpa' will be Inaugurated Tomorrow  
27<sup>th</sup> January | 12:50pm onwards



Sand Art



Carnival Street



Water Projection



Temple Projection



Art Showcase



Cultural Programme



Exhibition

Witness the auspicious Maha Yajna & get immersed in the celebration of Maa Samalei.



The Inauguration Ceremony will be broadcast live on all Odia TV channels & live streamed on the "IPR Odisha" YouTube Channel 8 AM onwards.



# leisure

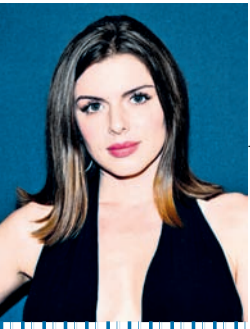


## SARAH PARKER'S ICONIC TUTU AUCTIONED FOR ₹43 LAKH

The three-tiered tutu that Sarah Jessica Parker's character Carrie Bradshaw wears in the opening credits of *Sex and the City* sold \$52K (over ₹43 lakh) and its original cost was \$5 (over ₹415).

## JULIA FOX HAS 'SHRINE' TO GHOST IN HER HOME

Italian-American actress and model Julia Fox has a 'shrine' to a ghost in her new home and thinks the presence watches over her and her son. According to the 33-year-old, when she bought a house in New York City last year, she could feel a spiritual presence there.



### FORTUNE FORECAST

**GaneshSpeaks.com**  
accuracy • reliability • trust  
FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You are in a position to affect other peoples' lives. Since you are very compassionate and caring, people will look up to you whether as a peer or a superior. Make good use of this excess energy to solve prickly issues. Ganesh encourages large-scale projects.

**TAURUS**  
Be prepared for taking instant decisions and acting promptly on them. Today you are likely to meet several such situations Ganesh is pleased to see that you have the acumen and experience to deal with such contingencies. You will have no trouble finding the right solutions and seeing things through.

**GEMINI**  
You will be faced with a slew of demands from various people today, and you will find it difficult to meet all of them. However, you will be able to meet the requirements that need to be met to salvage the day. People will praise your intelligence and creativity, says Ganesh.

**CANCER**  
Minor ailments like cough and cold may bother you, warns Ganesh. So avoid cold or sweet items. People admire your helpful nature. Take special care of your health, says Ganesh.

**LEO**  
You need to curb down on your expenses. You need to moderate the risks you take on in the share market. It is a good day for financial gains though. You need to understand the value of compromise, says Ganesh.

**VIRGO**  
The thinking cap is on your head, and a passionate pulse shall run through you today. Yet, by the mid-day, expect a laid-back, cavalier attitude to grip you. Government officials and other professionals will have an inspiringly assenting day. Your professionalism will shine through, and you may be in for some serious praise from the superiors.

**LIBRA**  
Ganesh says that there are chances that today you might start some long-pending renovation project for your house. You may decorate your home with new paintings and items. There may be guests over in the evening that will make you very happy. You may also go out for dinner with your family and friends or, more probably, with your sweetheart.

**SCORPIO**  
You are all set to paint the town red as you feel romance and love creeping into your life slowly. You may bump into 'someone special' today and see love blooming for you. There are also chances of marriage proposals and meeting prospective candidates, says Ganesh.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
You are in a mood to spend money of home décor, paintings or artefacts. Go ahead, and decorate your home. Ganesh foresees success on your cards today. Workplace has never been such an interesting place before. Planning and implementation will make your day easier.

**CAPRICORN**  
You'll have apparently no time for anything else, as partnerships and projects will keep you on your toes. Your communication skills and diplomacy will fetch you accolades in meetings, and also enable you to judge a person or a situation correctly, and form the right opinion. The efforts you have in the past may come to fruition today, feels Ganesh.

**AQUARIUS**  
Today is the day to turn dreams into reality and how! With your talent, wit, and intelligence you will make a great impression on everyone's mind, feels Ganesh. Icing on the cake will be the cash inflow. You know your cards and you play them well to your advantage.

**PISCES**  
You will communicate with your friends or relatives living abroad today. There is a chance that these communications could translate directly into substantial gain for you. You will find yourself in the mood for socializing.



## Fascinating R-Day facts

As a first, the 2024 parade will be heralded by 100 women artistes with Indian musical instruments

The nation is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its Republic Day today showcasing military strength, rich cultural diversity, unity, achievement and progress.

Going back in time, the Indian constitution went into effect on January 26, 1950, and history continued to be written. The Constitution of India is crucial for citizens to follow as it acts as a legal and political structure, and also as a sign of democracy, justice, and individual rights.

On this auspicious day, **Orissa POST** examines some fascinating and lesser-known facts about India.

- BN Rau, an Indian civil servant and constitutional adviser, was the first to draft India's constitution.

- The Indian Constitution is recognised as the world's longest-written constitution.

- The Republic Day parade is the centre of attention, drawing large crowds of spectators eager to see the amazing demonstration of India's military prowess, cultural variety, and accomplishments.

- The inaugural Republic Day parade was held in 1950 at Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium in New Delhi, which had previously been known as Irwin Amphitheatre.

- The National Anthem, *Jana Gana Mana*, was originally composed as *Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata* in Bengali by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore December 11, 1911. On January 24, 1950, only the first stanza of the hymn *Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata* was adopted as India's National Anthem, which is sung during Republic Day celebrations.

- With the themes of *Viksit Bharat* and *Bharat - Loktantra ki Matraka*, the 75th Republic Day Parade at Kartavya Path January 26, 2024 will be women-centric.

- As a first, the 2024 parade is to be heralded by 100 women artistes with Indian musical instruments; 16 States/UTs and nine Ministries/Organisations tableaux.

## 'Need to redefine feminism'

**Mumbai:** Actress Deepika Padukone discussed her preference for male-driven narratives in films like *Pathaan* and *Singham Again* and emphasises the collaborative nature of success between men and women, challenging conventional notions of feminism. In an interview shared by a media agency, the *Chennai Express* actress said, "I don't think women can succeed without men and men can't

succeed without women. I think we need to rephrase the definition of feminism." The actress challenges conventional notions and highlights the importance of collaboration between genders for collective success. When asked about the possibility of revisiting a character like *Piku* in her career, she expressed that the space for such roles exists, but writers need to create stories that

explore diverse themes and also emphasised the need to invest in compelling narratives, characters, and journeys rather than solely focusing on big-budget productions, encouraging a balanced approach to filmmaking. The *Jawan* actress recently joined the bandwagon of sustainable fashion. On the release day of *Fighter*, Deepika was spotted wearing beige

pants paired with a white shirt and beige sweater. At the screening, Deepika Padukone also extended a sweet gesture to the paparazzi present as she went and sat amongst them to get clicked with the photographers, as a token of appreciation.



## UAE Golden Visa for Kriti Sanon

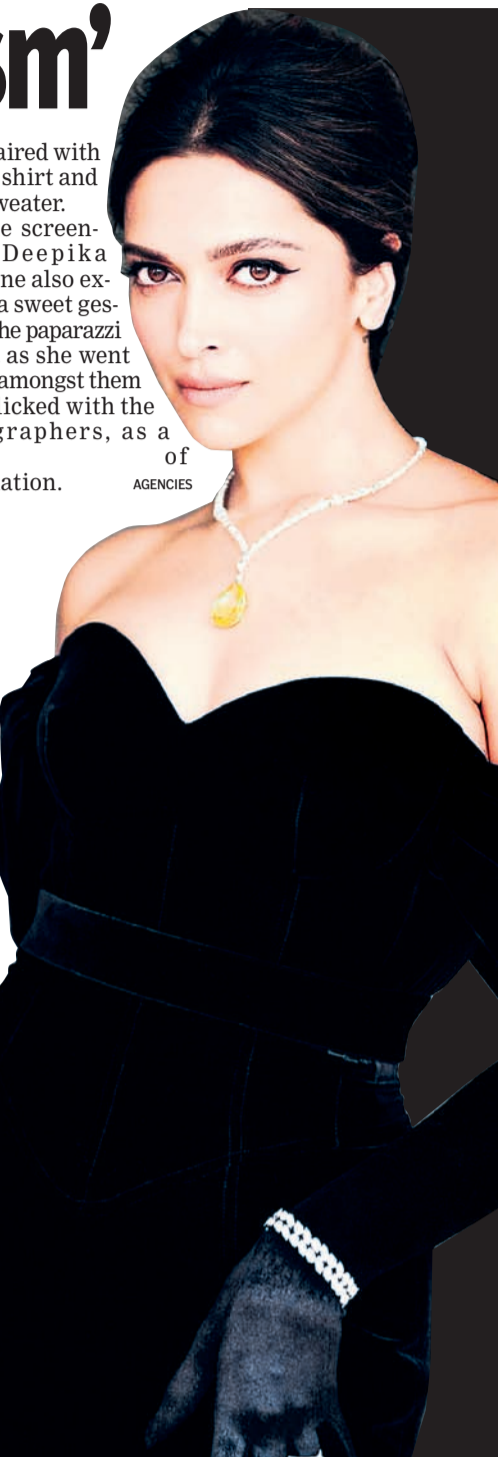
**Mumbai:** Actress Kriti Sanon has been granted the coveted UAE Golden Visa in the Bollywood Actress category, following in the footsteps of many renowned Indian film celebrities.

The Golden Visa, initiated by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2019, offers long-term residence permits, allowing foreigners to reside, work, and study in the UAE independently, without requiring a national sponsor, and allowing full ownership

ship of their business. She was presented with the Golden Visa by ECH Digital CEO Iqbal Marconi. Thankful for the recognition, the actor stated that receiving the UAE Golden Visa is truly an honour for her as Dubai holds a special significance for her and is excited to contribute to its rich cultural tapestry. Before Kriti Sanon, numerous notable individuals such as Shah Rukh Khan and family, Sanjay Dutt, Sania Mirza, Boney Kapoor and his children, Varun Dhawan, Ranveer Singh, Kamal Haasan, Mohanlal, Mammootty, Dulquer Salmaan, Mouni Roy, Urvashi Rautela, Suniel Shetty, Neha Kakkar, Farah Khan, Sonu Sood, Tovino Thomas, and Amala Paul

received the honour.

On the work front, Kriti Sanon will be next seen in *Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya*, co-starring Shahid Kapoor and also has *The Crew* and *Do Patti* in the pipeline.



## Mani Kaul's popular works make viewers nostalgic

**Bhubaneswar:** Utsav Ray's *A Ride in the Rain* kicked off the fourth day of the ongoing 13th International Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB) here at Odissi Research Centre, Thursday.

The movie's plot revolves around three strangers who happen to take a taxi ride together through the streets of Kolkata on a dark, rainy night. What follows is a little beyond suspenseful and dramatic.

*The Cloud Door* (1994), an Indo-German production on Hindu erotic literary themes, and *Nazar* (1991), an NFDC

production based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1876 short story *The Meek One*, were next to be screened under the *Mani Kaul Retrospective*, making viewers nostalgic. The day continued with *Opium* by Aman Sachdeva, an anthology feature of five stories woven together with the theme of religion. The show was followed by a post-screening discussion with the director, moderated by Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB) president Subrat Beura.

*Kayo Kayo Colour* by



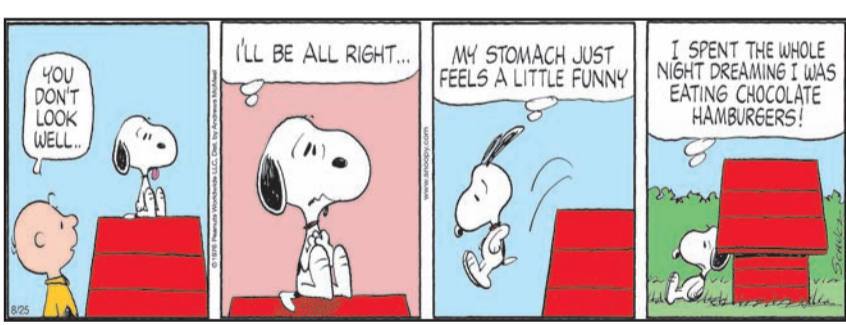
Aman Sachdeva (R) with Subrat Beura during a conversation PIC: FSB

Shahrukhkhan Chavada and *Thuramukham* by Rajeev Ravi were the other movies exhibited during the day. *Kayo Kayo Colour*, a slice-of-life Gujarati film set in Kalupur, a neighbourhood in the old city of Ahmedabad, follows the daily life of Razzak and his family through an observational lens.

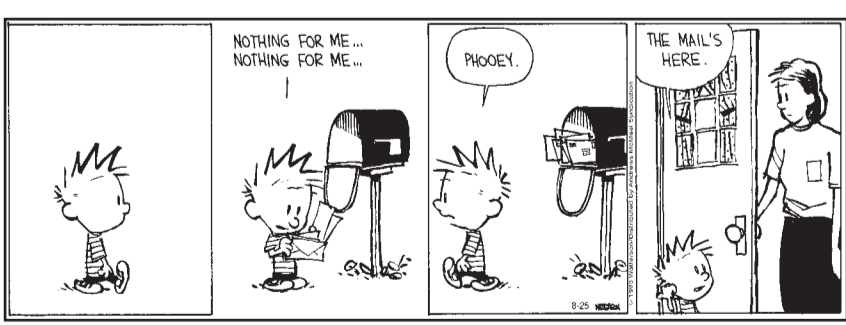
The 174-minute-long Malayalam movie *Thuramukham* traces the humiliating working conditions of workers in Cochin Port.

The week-long event is being organised by FSB. PNM

### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### BREVITY



**FUN post CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8				9		
10			11			
12	13			14	15	
17			16			21
18						20
19						22
23						24
25						

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**Across**  
1 Big cat  
5 Stockpile  
8 Debt unpaid  
9 Type of room or wagon  
10 Tennis unit  
11 High spirits  
12 Snare drum  
14 Edward Teach, for one  
17 Tranquillised  
19 Flu symptom  
22 Persian Gulf ship  
23 Saddle part  
24 Destiny  
25 Craftsman  
**Down**  
1 Beguile  
2 White heron  
3 Windpipe  
4 Step on it  
5 Arum lily  
6 Mexican saloon  
7 Magnify  
12 Cluster of grass  
13 Busybody  
15 Impose, like pain  
16 Ukrainian port  
18 Before firma or cotta  
20 Infectious agent  
21 Allow to mature

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

				7				
5	9			6	3			
			1	9				
			5	6	8			
		3		1		5		
	2				7			
1	2				8	3		
		8						
	7					4	2	

**SOLUTIONS**

**CROSSWORD**

ORBITAL	TEPID
B	I
VERNIGHT	NUN
E	H
SOMME	THERMAL
A	P
COCKTAIL	DRESS
O	N
MOORING	TAHOE
M	N
E	NETTE
N	E
TIMER	DIETARY

**SUDOKU**

4	5	9	8	6	1	3	7	2
6	1	2	7	3	5	8	4	9
3	8	7	2	9	4	1	6	5
9	4	5	6	8	7	2	3	1
1	2	6	3	5	9	4	8	7
8	7	3	4	1	2	9	5	6
2	3	1	5	4	6	7	9	8
5	9	4	1	7	8	6	2	3
7	6	8	9	2	3	5	1	4

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

**HOLIDAY NOTICE**  
The offices of Orissa POST will remain closed on the occasion of Republic Day. Hence, there will be no edition of the paper January 27, 2024 (Saturday).  
—EDITOR

**IRREGULAR by MANJUL**



Having a good Constitution is important. Without it, how else would one have subverted it?

## Canada to probe India hand

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** An independent commission in Canada, probing alleged foreign interference in elections in the North American country, has asked the Justin Trudeau government to share information about possible meddling in 2019 and 2021 polls by India, a development that could aggravate the already-tense Ottawa-New Delhi relations.

Trudeau announced an inquiry last year after intelligence documents were leaked to media outlets claiming China interfered in Canada's elections by supporting candidates friendly to President Xi Jinping's government. The inquiry is set to hold its first public hearings next week.

The inquiry's commissioner is tasked with examining potential interference by China, Russia and other state and non-state actors during the 2019 and 2021 elections. No other countries are explicitly named, but national-security officials have also pointed to India and Iran as other top sources of foreign meddling, Bloomberg reported.

The commission confirmed Wednesday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government will be investigated — according to a statement, the inquiry has requested information and documents related to alleged election interference. But it did not provide details about the allegations.

Trudeau stunned the world in September when he accused

## ELECTION MEDDLING



India of orchestrating the murder of a Sikh activist on Canadian soil. Masked assailants had gunned down Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian who was designated a terrorist by India because of his support for an independent Sikh nation

called Khalistan.

The allegation upended Canada-India relations. The Indian's government denied the claim, calling it 'absurd and motivated'. It temporarily suspended visas for Canadians and threatened to revoke the immunity of two-thirds of Canada's diplomats, forcing them to leave India. Trade talks between the countries have been on pause for months.

But Canada's claim appeared to be reinforced in November when federal prosecutors in the US accused an Indian government agent of directing a thwarted plot to kill a Sikh separatist in New York. India struck a more cooperative tone with the US, saying it had convened a committee to look into the allegations.

## PADMA SHRI FOR 4 FROM ODISHA

POST NEWS NETWORK

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 25:** Gopinath Swain, Bhagabat Pradhan, Binod Maharana and Binod Kumar Pasayat of Odisha are among the 110 'unsung heroes' picked for Padma Shri, Thursday.

Krishna Leela singer from Ganjam, Swain, has dedicated nine decades of his life to preserve and promote the tradition. His commitment to traditional techniques and improvisational methods breathed life into Krishna Leela, creating a bridge between the past and present. He taught five ancient ragas — Dakhinasri, Chinta Desakhya,

Todi Bhatiari, Bhatiari and Kumbha Kamadi. He established Akhadas and imparted knowledge to hundreds of disciples.

Sabda Nrutya folk dancer from Bargarh, Padhan, has taken the dance form beyond the temples. Pradhan dedicated over seven decades of his life to preserve and popularise the art — considered the dance of Mahadev. He worked as a lower primary school teacher during 1960s and faced financial challenges. However, Pradhan did not give up.

Maharana and Pasayat have been chosen for the prestigious award for their contribution towards art.

## Fake SIM card racket busted

PNN & AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 25:** The Keonjhar police claimed to have busted an interstate racket involved in facilitating pre-activated SIM cards to cybercriminals, with the arrest of four persons from the north Odisha district, Thursday.

All the accused belong to Ghasipura and Ramchandrapur areas of the district. The police seized 538 SIM cards, 18 mobile phones, five biometric scanners, bank passbooks, debit cards and identity cards from them.

Keonjhar SP KN Dagudu said during a probe, it was ascertained that the accused were posing as PoS (Point of

Sale) agents of Airtel and Jio and activating multiple SIM cards in the names of people of the district. Later, they used to sell these pre-activated SIM cards to fraudsters.

"We received a requisition from Maharashtra Police about involvement of a SIM card issued in Ghasipura in a cybercrime case. Based on the info, a case was registered here. We found that the racket had sold around 4,000 SIM cards to cybercriminals in Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Bihar," the SP said, adding that police came across records of over 300 FIRs registered in different places across the country where the cybercriminals duped many using the SIM cards supplied by the syndicate.

## Buzz over Nitish's return to BJP amid rift in INDIA bloc

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** Signs of deepening fissures between Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his INDIA bloc allies have given rise to the possibility of his return to the BJP fold amid hectic parleys within the Opposition camp to stall any such eventuality.

On a day RJD president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya took a swipe at Kumar for 'changing his ideology as the wind changes its direction' in posts on 'X' following the JD(U) president's swipe at parties promoting family members in politics, a BJP leader well-

versed with the state's politics said the party will be guided by its future political imperatives, and not past bitterness. He, however, noted that any call has to be taken by the party's top brass.

The BJP has been showing signs of warming up to Kumar, who has swapped his alliance preference between the saffron party and the RJD-Congress-

Left camp frequently while remaining in power, with its leaders toning down their criticism of him of late and even praising him at times. Union Home Minister Amit Shah himself sounded more open to such a possibility in a recent interview.

## SHORT TAKES

### 'Gyanvapi built on remains of temple'

**Varanasi:** The ASI survey report on the Gyanvapi complex here suggests that the mosque was built on remains of a pre-existing temple, claimed counsel for the Hindu side Vishnu Shankar Jain Thursday. Jain told reporters that copies of the survey report consisting of 839 pages were made available to the parties concerned by the court late Thursday evening.

### OJEE to begin May 6


**Bhubaneswar:** The Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) 2024 will begin May 6 and conclude May 10, an official said, Thursday. The entrance examination will be conducted at 30 centres in Odisha and three outside the state, the official said. Registrations for the entrance examination began January 25 and will continue till March 25, said the official.

### Schools, colleges shut Jan 27

**Bhubaneswar:** Schools and colleges across the state will remain closed January 27 (Saturday) on the occasion of the inauguration of Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives (SAMALEI) project in Sambalpur. "The CM has declared closure of schools and colleges Saturday as it would help devotees witness the grand dedication ceremony," they said.

### PM likely to visit Odisha Feb 3

**Bhubaneswar:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to visit Odisha February 3, state BJP president Manmohan Samal said Thursday. "Apart from official programmes, the PM will address a BJP rally in Sambalpur," Samal said. During the likely visit, the PM will inaugurate the permanent campus of IIM-Sambalpur.



# Greetings To All Fellow Citizens


On

# 75<sup>th</sup>

# Republic Day

This is the 'Amrit Kaal' of Bharat's development. Today, Bharat is filled with the reservoir of youth power, brimming with energy. Today, we are at a turning point where every effort of ours will strengthen the foundation of Bharat for the next thousand years.

- Narendra Modi



Live telecast of Republic Day celebrations from Kartavya Path from 9:00 a.m. onwards on Doordarshan network

Odisha Transformation Awareness Campaign launched

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: To promote awareness about the state government's schemes and programmes among people, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Thursday launched the Odisha Transformation Awareness Campaign through folk arts.

programmes would be organised in 51,168 villages during the month-long campaign, he said. The government has decided to create awareness among the people on 15 different schemes of 10 departments from which the people should get benefit, the CM said, adding that all local forms of arts would be utilised for popularising the schemes.

The government has decided to create awareness among the people on 15 different schemes of 10 departments

2010 has meanwhile become a major movement in the area. Now, it has spread to blocks in Ganjam district.

He said the artist associations would also be strength-

ened like the women's self-help groups.

While interacting with some artists, Patnaik said that they (artists) are like members of his family. "You keep on doing good works and the government will continue to extend all possible support to you," the chief minister told the artists.

During the campaign, the artists will promote awareness about government schemes and programmes through traditional folk dance forms like Danda Nacha, Rasa, Sani Pala,

Daskathia, Sankirtan, Ghoda Nacha, Mogal Tamasha, Prahlad Natak, Suang, Ramlila, Khanjani Bhajan, Kendara song, Bhadrilala, Sambalpur dance, Ghumura dance and others. Besides folk song programmes of Banda, Koya, Santali and Dhensa tribal communities will also be organised during this ongoing campaign. The artists will present fact-based narration during the shows and ensure that the people understand that the government has several schemes for them.

123-ft Shiva statue to be unveiled on Mahashivratri

PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Jan 25: A 123-foot-tall statue of Lord Shiva is set to be inaugurated in Jajpur district on the occasion of Mahashivratri March 8, officials said.

The statue is being built near Barahanath temple on the banks of Baitarani river as part of the Baraha Kshetra development project, they added. Visitors will have the opportunity to visit and view the Lord Shiva statue using a lift or stairs,

and also enjoy a sky view of the Baitarani river front, an official involved in the project said. The statue has been constructed by a private art organisation based in New Delhi. In addition to the statue, a beautiful park and a water fountain are being built for tourists. "The statue on the banks of the sacred Baitarani river will be a valuable addition to the district's tourism," said local resident Debadutta Mishra.

Kotia Kondh duo to attend R-Day function in Delhi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Jan 25: Two persons from the Kotia Kondh community, one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in Odisha, are going to attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi as special guests.

Birendra Majhi (28) of Garanga village in Bilamal panchayat, and Haramani Jani (22) of Burlubaru village under Belaghara panchayat in Kandhamal district, have already reached New Delhi to attend the Republic Day parade.

Every year, representatives from a PVTG are invited by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs as guests for Republic Day celebrations.

The tribal community is confined to Belaghara area in Kandhamal district. Around 50 tribal people across the country will attend in the ceremony.

Besides attending the Republic Day parade, they will also visit a few other places in New Delhi and meet VIPs during their 10-day stay in the national capital. "We reached New Delhi January 22 and will stay there till February 2 and attend a number of government programmes," said Deepak Kumar Sahu, Welfare Extension Officer (WEO), Kutia Kondh Development Agency (KKDA), Belaghara, who is accompanying them.

"We are very much excited after getting the invitation from the government to attend the Republic Day parade in New Delhi," Birendra, a tribal farmer, said.

"I had never dreamt of boarding a flight and to attend such a big function in New Delhi. I thank the government," said Haramani, also a farmer.

AIIMS Bhub starts Drone Health Service



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan25: In a first-of-its-kind initiative to integrate technology into the healthcare system, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhubaneswar commissioned Drone Health Services Thursday.

Two days after a successful trial run, the national institute has initiated the use of drones to transport critical medical items. The inaugural drone flight, executed flawlessly, transported a vital unit of blood from AIIMS Bhubaneswar to Tangi CHC, covering a distance of around 60 km in a remarkable 35 minutes. The historic flight marked the first-ever drone-assisted blood delivery not only in Odisha but across the entire country.

Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director of AIIMS Bhubaneswar, expressed his satisfaction with

The pioneering effort aligns with the directives of the Health Ministry, showcasing AIIMS Bhubaneswar's commitment to advancing healthcare services in state

the successful trial, stating, "Delivering a blood bag to a patient through a drone has been successfully conducted for the first time. This initiative represents a significant leap in integrating technology into our healthcare system. It also collected blood samples from the CHC before returning to AIIMS."

The 12 kg drone, equipped to carry medical loads ranging from 2 to 5 kg, achieved a speed

of 90 km/hour during the mission. Utilising GPS technology, the drone demonstrated exceptional precision in navigation, ensuring the timely and secure delivery of essential medical supplies.

This pioneering effort aligns with the directives of the Health Ministry, showcasing AIIMS Bhubaneswar's commitment to advancing healthcare services. The drone health service is anticipated to play a crucial role in emergency situations, facilitating the rapid delivery of drugs, injections, and other vital medical supplies.

This innovative approach not only enhances healthcare delivery during emergencies but also positions AIIMS Bhubaneswar as a leader in leveraging technology for the betterment of public health. The institution remains committed to exploring and implementing advancements that elevate the standards of healthcare services.

Dillip Kumar Parida, MS, Sonu H Subba, Satyaprakash, Manisha R Gaikwad, Priyamadhava Behera, Abhishek Mishra, Anshuman Sahu, and DDA (I/c) Rasmiranjana Sethy were present on the occasion, emphasising the collaborative effort behind this ground-breaking initiative.

New voters want focus on edu, job and environment

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan25: India marks National Voters' Day, a significant occasion to encourage active participation in the democratic process, January 25 every year. This day holds immense importance, reminding citizens of their fundamental right to vote and its crucial role in

shaping the nation's future.

National Voters' Day this year assumes all the more importance with 2024 being the election year. The theme of 'Voters' Day this year is 'Nothing like voting, I vote for sure'. OrissaPOST interacted with the youngsters who are all set to vote for the first time this year. Here are some of their views...

Voting is very important for youngsters and issues on which I will think before voting will be education and jobs for youngsters. I think the state government under Naveen Patnaik is doing well in terms of educational development with ST School Transformation and Startup Odisha



Students join an awareness rally organised on the occasion of 14th National Voters' day in Bhubaneswar, Thursday

It is exciting for me as I will vote for the first time. As a member of young population, the important issues will be good and quality education. If youngsters get educated, then only they will be empowered to help India grow. Nowadays, voting is more important because of the advancement of media and technology. Now, youngsters are more alert, active and they understand their own power.

Sruati Mishra | PG 2nd year, Economics, RDWU

I personally believe that everyone should vote as everyone has a different opinion and in our Indian democracy, we have the ability to choose who governs us, this also gives us an opportunity to have a say in this political world. It gives you the choice to vote for your local and national representatives, if you don't vote, other people get to choose who represents you. Among the important issues, I believe we need to focus on environmentally sustainable approaches everywhere in terms of education and infrastructure as environment is permanent economy.

MARKET WATCH table with columns for INDEX and VARIATION, listing SENSEX, NIFTY, DOLLAR, EURO, GOLD, and SILVER.

WEATHER table with columns for BHUB and CTK, showing temperature, humidity, and rainfall.

CLASSIFIED AFFIDAVIT

I, Rajani Kanta Mahapatra, S/o- Surendra Nath Mahapatra, Resident of Ward No.-8, At-Radhakanta Street, PO-Purushottampur, Dist-Ganjam, Pin-761018, Odisha, India declare by this Affidavit No-474/23, Dated: 16.09.2023 that now onwards I shall be known as Rajanikanta Mahapatra for all future purposes.

Women part of state's devpt journey: Naveen

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: With their strong self-belief and courage, women of Odisha have now become a part of the state's development journey, said Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik speaking at 31st Foundation Day of the Odisha State Women's Commission (OWC) here Thursday.

On the occasion, joining as the chief speaker, Women and Child Development and Mission

Shakti Minister Basanti Hembram said that Odisha State Commission for Women has played a key role in women empowerment. She added that the commission is taking major steps towards eradication of violence, crimes against women, harassment and gender inequality in the society.

"The commission is committed to take legal action to prevent violence against women for women empowerment in Odisha," said department prin-

icipal secretary Subha Sharma. At the event, Minati Behera, chairman of the State Commission for Women, elaborated on major achievements of the commission. Afterwards, the guests released a book, a compilation of women's success stories titled 'Hass Futila Parivar Tisthila.'

Shyam Sundar Das, director of Directorate of Public Prosecution and S Shyni, senior police officer also addressed the gathering on the occasion.

BJP weds BJD: Alleging nexus, Cong holds 'marriage'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 25: The Congress held a one-of-a-kind demonstration here Thursday, organising a wedding that had nothing to do with two persons but two political parties -- the ruling BJD and the opposition BJP in the state.

Maintaining that the two parties were in a live-in relationship for long, Congress workers organised the wedding of sorts at the busy Master Canteen Square in Bhubaneswar, with all the pomp and gaiety.

Amid drum beats and chanting of mantras, all rituals were performed by the Congress workers, who were wearing masks of leaders of the two parties, to solemnise the marriage.

The Congress workers even distributed invitation cards for the ceremony. In the 'BJP weds BJD' cards, PM Narendra Modi was mentioned as the groom's fa-

ther and Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik as the bride's father.

"The BJD and the BJP have been in a live-in relationship for the past 23 years. So that they don't get a bad name in society, we have organised their wedding," Congress leader Ajay Kumar said.

They roam holding hands in Delhi's Lodhi Garden, and stage drama of political opponents in Odisha, he alleged.

Kumar, the Congress in-charge of Odisha, said that the BJD has supported the BJP-led government whenever an anti-people Bill was introduced in Parliament.

The BJD supported the BJP in the land acquisition Bill, which was later withdrawn, farm laws, demonetisation, GST, presidential polls and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB), besides the candidature of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for Rajya Sabha polls, he said.

In return, neither CBI nor ED



ever came to Odisha for any investigation, he alleged.

The BJP has remained silent on the mining scam, chit-fund scam, cabinet minister Naba Kishore Das's murder, Mamita Meher murder case and the Mahanga triple murder case, Kumar claimed.

State Congress president Sarat Pattanayak alleged that the BJD and BJP together have made Odisha one of the poorest states in the country.

People of the state will not tolerate them anymore, and they have turned to the Congress. Congress is the only

alternative in Odisha, he claimed.

State BJP spokesperson Biranchi Tripathy said Congress' condition is very poor in the country, and in Odisha, it will vanish soon. So, they are doing such drama to prove their existence, he said.

Senior BJD leader Bhupindar Singh said people will not accept Congress, which does such kinds of demonstrations ahead of elections.

Keeping the interest of the people of Odisha in mind, the BJD extended support to the Centre on various issues during both the UPA and NDA governments, he said.

"While the BJP alleges that BJD and Congress are together, the Congress is alleging that BJD and BJP are together. It means, our Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is getting stronger," he claimed.

National seminar on 'Odia Folk Art & Culture'

Cuttack: Shailabala Women's Autonomous College, Cuttack recently organised a national seminar on 'Odia Folk Art and Folk Culture' to nurture and promote the linguistic treasure of Odia Language. The unique initiative was taken up under the aegis of Nua 'O' Yuva Odisha, Nabin Odisha programme of the state government. Principal Gayatri Biswal presided over the seminar which was inaugurated by Dilip Routray, IAS, Director, Odia Language, Literature, and Culture department. Kamalakanta Mishra, former vice-chancellor and dean, Central University, Hyderabad joined as the chief guest, Paramananda Patel, state coordinator, SAMHATI multi-lingual education, ST Research Organisation spoke on tribal culture of Saura and other tribes as chief speaker, Bharat Biswanath, deputy director, Directorate of Distance Education, Central University, Tirupati spoke on folk culture and art as the guest of honour. Seminar convener Chittaranjan Panda, and Bikash Kumar Das, nodal officer of the Nua 'O' initiative spoke on the objective of the seminar.

FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT OUR BOOKING STATIONS. List of contact numbers for various agencies and services across Odisha.



“The grand transformation of Maa Samaleswari temple premises is a fitting example of successful execution of 5T mantra. 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian, who has deep devotion and faith in the deity, has turned the dream of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik into reality through regular monitoring. The CM's unwavering devotion towards Maa Samaleswari, and limitless love & affection for western Odisha people along with the untiring efforts of the 5T Chairman have made it possible.

SANJAY BABU | PRESIDENT, SAMALESWARI TEMPLE TRUST BOARD

## BIG PUSH TO TOURISM

The transformation of Maa Samaleswari shrine would give the much needed impetus to development of tourism and economy of western Odisha. A vending zone with 82 stalls has been built for the rehabilitation of displaced traders near the shrine. Out those, 14 have been reserved for priest families. Arrangements are in place at the vending zone for sale of products showcasing Sambalpuri Bandhakala. Plans are also afoot for live demonstration of Bandhakala art. This would help promote Sambalpuri culture globally. Similarly, products like Sambalpuri saree, Sambalpuri cuisines, including 'Sarsatia', and other delectable dishes would be made available at affordable prices for the devotees and tourists coming from the country and abroad. Moreover, demonstrating a unique example of women empowerment, the government has given the management of the cafeteria, built at the shrine precincts, to women self-help groups (WSHG).

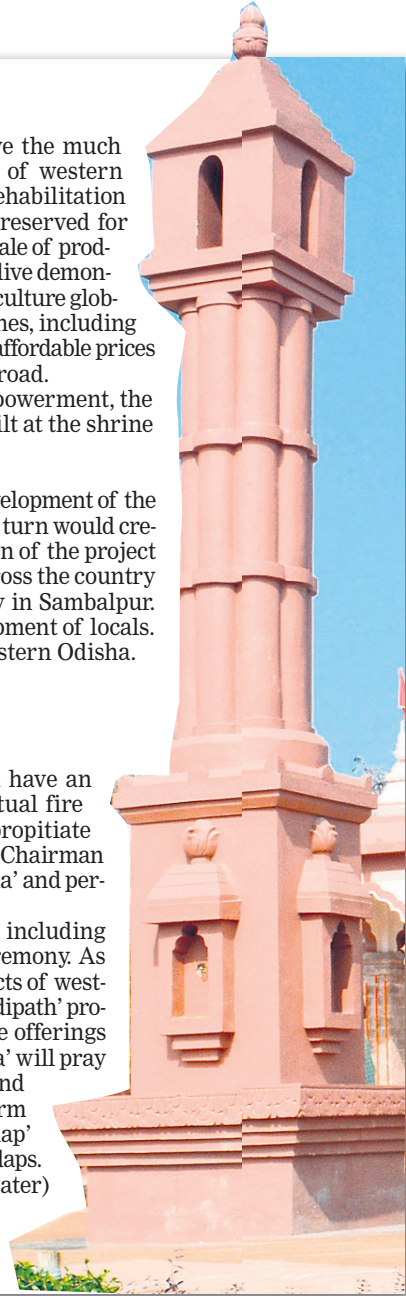
### Devpt opportunities for locals

The mega transformational initiative would usher in development of the shrine periphery through forward linkage effect which in turn would create livelihood opportunities for the locals. The dedication of the project would attract lakhs of devotees of the Goddess from across the country and abroad, thereby giving a fillip to tourism industry in Sambalpur. Many opportunities will open up for economic development of locals. This will pave way for an overall growth of entire western Odisha.

## CM TO OFFER YAJNA AHUTI

The mega unveiling of Samalei project will have an array of programmes, among which are ritual fire ceremonies like 'yajna' and 'chandipath' to propitiate the Goddess. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian will join the 'chandipath' and 'yajna' and perform 'Ahuti' in the sacred fire.

At least five 'yajna mandaps' have been built, including the main 'mandap', for holding the ritual fire ceremony. As many as 30 learned priests (pandits) from 11 districts of western Odisha will participate in the 'yajna' and 'chandipath' programme which will conclude January 31 with the offerings of 'Purnahuti'. Pandits participating in the 'yajna' will pray to the Goddess for world peace, welfare of mankind and development of the state. Of them, 14 will perform 'yajna' and 'Chandipath' at the main 'yajna mandap' while four each will perform at the other four mandaps. Meanwhile, a kalash (pitchers containing holy water) procession comprising 1,100 kalash will be taken out January 26 on the eve of the public dedication ceremony of the project.



# MASCOT OF HISTORIC TRANSFORMATIONS

tious completion of works by undertaking regular field visits.

### Grand temple precincts spread over 44 acres

The grand transformation of the precincts of the 16th century shrine was the prime objective of the SAMALEI project from the beginning. Following the 5T transformation initiative, the temple stands amid a decked up 44 acre campus, from the earlier 4 acres. The elaborate plantations are amplifying the natural beauty of the sprawling temple premises, while ornately carved Khandolite sandstone blocks used in every new construction sing glory of the rich art, cultural and architectural tradition of Odisha. Care has been taken to accommodate Sambalpuri artwork of Western Odisha in the transformation details. As a result, every structure in the shrine complex reflects the art and tradition of Odisha.

The designs of the newly constructed entry gate, temple office, restroom for priests, vending zone, shoe stand, et al perfectly blend with the historic architectural style of the ancient shrine.

### Thrust on devotional ambience

Ensuring a seamless devotional ambience for devotees coming to the revered place of worship is main ob-



jective of the transformative initiative. From roofed queuing area with railings, shoe stand to drinking water facility, toilets and parking lots, every construction under the project boasts of comfort and convenience to the visitors. The pond near the shrine has been restored and renovated while plat-

forms have been made in the nearby clock tower to help devotees get an aerial view of the beautiful temple precincts and the nearby Mahanadi river. Battery operated vehicles have been deployed at the parking area to help transport differently-abled and elderly devotees to the temple. Special arrangements have been made for lighting Akhanda Deepa (ever burning lamp) during Navratri and other important occasions, while the Mahanadi Aarati Ghat has been built to forge a memorable fusion of nature and culture on the banks of the pristine riverfront.

Prioritising the convenience of priests at Samaleswari temple, restrooms have been opened at the administrative building situated on the eastern flank of the temple precincts. The administrative building will also house offices for other departments meant for the shrine management. This apart, the build-

ing has amenities like washrooms and drinking water facility for priests and officials. Further, stalls will be opened at the administrative building for sale of bhog and puja articles by priest families.

### Water sports delight

The heritage pond on the premises of Samaleswari temple has been restored and renovated while pedal boats have been made available for ride. Tourists and devotees, especially children, visiting the shrine can enjoy boat ride on the 30X20 metre water body where three pedal boats have already been made afloat. Moreover, a 10-metre long barricaded ramp, which has been built up to the middle of the pond, will help parents keep a watch on their children enjoying boat ride. A garden with beautiful flowers has been created on the pond embankment creating the impression of a mini park.



The abode of Maa Samaleswari is considered the epicenter of cultural and spiritual consciousness of the female divinity in western Odisha. Respecting the collective conscious thought of the people in the region, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik took the historic decision in 2021 to transform the Maa Samaleswari temple precincts. The ambitious project mirroring the pop-

ular aspiration is going to be dedicated to people Saturday.

Convenience to and requirements of devotees occupy the centre stage of the SAMALEI project which was executed through 5T transformation as a mark of respect to the devotion and emotional connect of millions to the female divinity. From the very inception of the project, 5T Chairman Kartik Pandian has been ensuring expedi-



The only work that spiritually purifies us is that which is done without personal motives.  
**SRI AUROBINDO**



# Case For Debt Relief

If developing economies found it hard to manage their debts in 2023, they are likely to face even more formidable challenges this year. Though most possess relatively small debt stocks and are not considered insolvent, many are in dire need of liquidity. As long as this remains true, they will struggle not only to manage their debts, but also to invest in the green transition.

Developing economies have faced a series of external shocks in recent years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, war-related disruptions of food and energy supply chains, and an uptick in global inflation. Moreover, their access to capital markets has been curtailed, preventing them from rolling over maturing loans, as they would do in normal times. As a result, countries have been forced to channel a large share of their tax and export revenues to service their debt, avoiding default at the cost of priorities like infrastructure investment, social-welfare programmes, and climate action.

The outlook for these countries is likely to worsen in the next few years. According to estimates by the Finance for Development Lab (FDL), large debt payments are coming due in 2024 and 2026 for at least 20 low- and lower-middle-income countries. As countries hit this "debt wall," their already fragile fiscal positions will deteriorate further. This does not bode well for climate action.

Climate change is not some distant menace; its effects are already being felt worldwide, especially in climate-vulnerable developing economies. But international summits on the topic last year sent a disappointing message: while developed economies pledged to increase climate financing by 2030, developing-economy policymakers are struggling against severe fiscal constraints. With medium-term strategies being used to address a short-term threat, developing and emerging economies have been expressing frustration, including at the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact that was held in Paris last June.

Multilateral development banks can provide an essential lifeline, but their capacity would have to be strengthened – and quickly. According to World Bank data, the new concessional loans the world's poorest countries received from MDBs in 2022 were smaller than these countries' debt-service payments, a large share of which went to private and bilateral creditors. Increasing capital flight from the developing world – driven not least by monetary tightening in advanced economies – will intensify the needs of illiquid lower-income countries.

But it is not only a matter of financial capacity. MDBs have so far been inconsistent, at best, when it comes to supporting countries struggling to repay their debts. For example, both Kenya and Ethiopia have been under pressure to repay their private and Chinese creditors, which are now collecting more in debt-service payments than they are providing in new loans. But only Kenya received enough support from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and others to refinance its debt that is maturing this year.

By contrast, assistance to Ethiopia has declined in recent years. As a result, Ethiopia recently defaulted on its external debt, even though it amounts to just 25% of GDP. While the Kenya approach is not the solution – providing similar levels of support to all illiquid countries would require a tripling of MDB flows – this is clearly unacceptable.

A better approach would focus on closing the gap between short-term debt concerns and long-term investment needs, by unlocking net-positive inflows for countries facing liquidity constraints. As the FDL has proposed, an agreement among debtors, creditors, and MDBs to permit countries to reschedule debts coming due – delaying maturities by 5-10 years – would create fiscal space for climate-friendly investments, financed by MDBs.

For this liquidity bridge to work, MDBs would have to accelerate progress on implementing existing reform plans and increase funding substantially, while the IMF helps manage debt-rollover risks. Importantly, private and bilateral creditors would have to agree to the rescheduling. That is why, compared to the Debt Service Suspension Initiative that the G20 introduced in 2020, the proposal includes stronger incentives for private-sector creditors to participate, in addition to longer time horizons.

There are good reasons to believe that creditors can be convinced to join the programme voluntarily. It is, after all, in their best interest to remain invested in solvent countries with strong growth prospects; no one benefits from debt crises like those that have ensnared Zambia and Sri Lanka. In any case, creditors would continue receiving interest payments, and as global interest rates fall and economic-growth prospects improve in the coming years, debtors may well be able to return to capital markets and resume repayment of the principal.

Shaping a workable blueprint along these lines is a task for upcoming international gatherings, such as the G20 summit in Brazil later this year. Logistical and financial coordination will be needed to ensure sufficient liquidity. Coordination among the IMF, the World Bank, and regional development banks will also be essential to ensure that participating debtor countries pursue investments that genuinely support green growth.

If nothing is done to help countries facing liquidity crises, the world will risk a wave of destabilising debt defaults, and progress on the green transition will be severely undermined, with catastrophic implications for the entire world. Because promising solutions like the liquidity bridge can prevent such outcomes, they deserve broad global support.

**Ishac Diwan is Research Director of the Finance for Development Lab. Vera Songwe is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the Finance for Development Lab.**

## WISDOM CORNER

There are basically two types of people. People who accomplish things, and people who claim to have accomplished things. The first group is less crowded.  
**MARK TWAIN**

No man ever got very high by pulling other people down. The intelligent merchant does not knock his competitors. The sensible worker does not knock those who work with him. Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself.  
**ALFRED LORD TENNYSON**

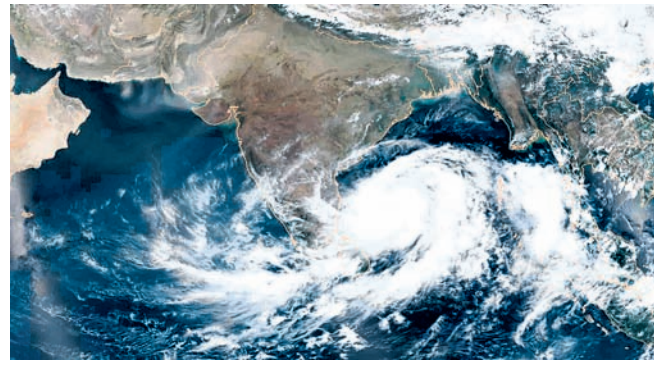
Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't, and the other half who have nothing to say and keep on saying it.  
**ROBERT FROST**

# EVOLUTION OF FORECASTING

FOCUS 150 YEARS OF IMD

India Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its hundred and fifty years of service on 15 January. The department came into existence in the backdrop of two deadly cyclones in 1864 and severe monsoon failure in 1866 and 1871, exposing inadequacies of existing weather service capability in the country. HM Blandford then a Professor in Presidency College Calcutta and also Meteorological Reporter to the Government of Bengal prepared a report paving the way for establishment of a national meteorological organisation. Its main aim was to study the climate and weather of the country as a whole, and apply this knowledge for providing weather services such as storm warnings. Blandford went on to become the first Chief Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India.

In these 150 years, IMD has grown to become a large organisation taking its rightful position as a key contributor to India's growth story. For the purpose of analysis, this journey can be viewed through three different phases -- a) pre-Independence, b) consolidation of its observational network including deployment of technology such as radar and satellite, enhancement of computing power and c) augmentation of its modeling capabilities, and strengthening of scientific basis for providing better weather services. The pre-Independence era in spite of colonial period apathies, laid out some foundational work for example, early monsoon studies, tropical storm warning system, agro-meteorology and meteorological services for civil aviation. It worked mostly with severe budget constraints leaving very little resources for conducting important scientific studies. Availability of observational tools in India such as radar in



Given the size and climatic variation of India, IMD has performed well in spite of considerable challenges, be it resource availability, technological capability or better research culture

1950's and satellite in the decade of 1960's and 70's helped significantly to improve weather service by providing access to observational data from remote areas. Yet, there was a recognition that much more scientific research is required to back up weather services particularly relating to atmospheric processes and climate studies. Consequently agencies such as the Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune (1962) and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting in Delhi (1988) were set up. The later was modeled along the lines of European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting. It was formed in the backdrop of a few drought years and with the idea that weather forecast for three to ten days can be obtained through improved models coupled with significantly higher computing ability to be useful particularly for agriculture. The broad vision was that agencies such as IITM and NCMRWF without the burden of carrying out daily operational meteorological services such as preparing weather bulletin, forecasts of extreme events

will augment IMD's weather services from a research perspective. In the last few decades, particularly after 1999 super cyclone IMD has paid much attention to orient its services more towards users' requirements for example, moving towards Impact based Forecasting and Warning (IbFW), use of color codes to indicate level of risk. This outlook reflects in IMD's data compilation for example making district wise rainfall data available, user friendly communication platforms, and development of SOPs for different user groups. Given the size and climatic variation of India, IMD has performed well in spite of considerable challenges, be it resource availability, technological capability or better research culture.

There are however certain questions which are important to be raised at this stage of IMD's evolution. The first is its performance in terms of integrating climate studies with weather as a whole as was originally envisaged by Blandford in 1875. This requires a critical scrutiny as the department for most part has remained engaged with op-

erational weather services without extending it to climatology or exploring climate's linkage with weather processes as much as required. To add to it, university research and teaching in meteorological science has been largely underdeveloped being taught in a handful of places until recently. It resulted in limited attention to theoretical work underpinning climate-weather nexus. The second question is IMD's ability and future plan to provide weather services at sub-district or local level. A recent initiative for example is to provide weather services to at least five farmers in every village under a programme 'panchayat mausam seva'. What is however not clear whether this service will be based on weather forecasts obtained at micro scale or dissemination of weather information obtained for a large area? A general forecast for rainfall for example is often of limited value from a local point of view. Similarly, one finds much variation within a monsoon season, raising requirement of periodic intra-monsoon forecasts in addition to forecasts such as monsoon's onset period, deficiencies etc. The third and perhaps the most important question is IMD's willingness to incorporate public feedback mechanism to validate its weather forecasts and to evaluate level of satisfaction of people with its services. So far the practice has been to undertake department level review such as evaluation reports made publicly available after a cyclonic storm. However, only when the primary user groups such as those being serviced are included in this evaluation exercise, will it add values and strengthen the agency's accuracy claims.

*The writer teaches at BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus. Views are personal.*

## SPECTRUM PERSONAL FINANCE

# Paths to wealth creation

The world of finance is vast and dynamic, offering individuals various avenues to participate in wealth creation. Two primary roles within this landscape are traders and investors, each with distinct strategies, time horizons, and risk appetites. While both aim to capitalise on market opportunities, their approaches differ significantly.

Traders are individuals or institutions who actively buy and sell financial instruments within short time frames, ranging from seconds to a few weeks. Their primary goal is to profit from short-term price movements and market inefficiencies. They rely on technical analysis, charts, and various indicators to make quick decisions, often executing multiple trades in a single day. Their positions may be open for minutes, hours, or days, and they are less concerned with the long-term fundamentals of the assets they trade.

The high-frequency nature of trading demands a higher risk tolerance. Traders are comfortable with the inherent volatility of the markets and are often willing to accept smaller profit margins in exchange for frequent trading opportunities.

Traders use a variety of strategies, including day trading, swing trading, and scalping. Day traders

aim to capitalise on intraday price movements, while swing traders hold positions for a few days or weeks, seeking to capture short- to medium-term trends. Scalpers focus on making small profits from minor price fluctuations.

Technical analysis is a cornerstone of trading strategies. They analyse price charts, patterns, and indicators to make informed decisions. The goal is to identify entry and exit points based on historical price data and market trends.

Traders can be individuals or entities like private limited companies or multi-national companies. The MNCs have a strong research team, equipped with advanced tools and technologies to monitor and perform holistic research of various companies. The foreign institutional investment is based on the research done by these entities at a global level.

Investors, on the other hand, take a longer-term approach, with the objective of building wealth over an extended period. They focus on the fundamental analysis of assets, considering factors such as financial health, growth potential, and market trends before making investment decisions. They have a long-term perspective, often holding onto assets for years or even decades. Their decisions are based on the belief that the

value of their investments will appreciate over time.

Investors tend to have a lower risk tolerance compared to traders. While they acknowledge short-term market fluctuations, they are more concerned with the overall performance of their investments over the years.

Investment strategies vary widely, ranging from value investing to growth investing and income investing. Value investors seek undervalued assets, believing that the market will eventually recognise their true worth. Growth investors focus on companies with strong potential for future expansion, while income investors prioritise assets that generate a steady stream of income, such as dividends.

Fundamental analysis plays a crucial role in investment decisions. Investors assess the financial health of companies, examining factors like earnings, cash flow, and market position. They also consider broader economic trends and industry dynamics.

Traders spend significant time monitoring the markets and executing trades daily, often requiring a constant presence. Investors, on the other hand, may only need to review their portfolios periodically, allowing for a less time-intensive commitment.

Trading can be emotionally

taxing, as decisions must be made quickly in response to market fluctuations. Investors, with their longer time horizons, may experience less stress related to short-term market movements.

Traders may incur higher transaction costs due to the frequency of their trades. Investors, with fewer transactions, typically face lower overall costs.

The frequency of trading may result in higher capital gains taxes for traders. Investors, benefiting from long-term capital gains tax rates, may experience more favourable tax treatment.

In the financial markets, both traders and investors play crucial roles, contributing to market liquidity and overall efficiency.

Ultimately, whether one chooses to be a trader or an investor depends on individual preferences, risk tolerance, and financial goals. Some may find the excitement of trading appealing, while others may prefer the steadiness of long-term investments. Regardless of the chosen path, understanding the differences between trading and investing is essential for navigating the complex world of finance and making informed decisions in pursuit of financial success.

*The writer is the founder and CEO of fintech startup Fincist.*



Sourajeet Pradhani

IN THE FINANCIAL MARKETS, BOTH TRADERS AND INVESTORS PLAY CRUCIAL ROLES, CONTRIBUTING TO MARKET LIQUIDITY AND OVERALL EFFICIENCY

## Religion card

Sir, It was only to be expected that the inauguration of the 'half-constructed' Ram temple in Ayodhya would be saffronised by the RSS-BJP combine, eying the ensuing general elections rather than making it purely a religious affair, which ought to be so. Succinctly put, the BJP has unabashedly played the religion card at Ayodhya to retain political power. There is little doubt that whipping up this level of communal frenzy is downright dangerous in a secular democracy. In the midst of this majoritarian din, some historical lessons have been obfuscated. The fact that whenever religion has been used to its extremity to serve narrow political interests, the blood of innocent people has been shed and national unity has been weakened. Was this the India that Babasaheb Ambedkar had dreamt? Did Bhagat Singh sacrifice his life for this version of India? Sadly, a large part of the country's energy was frittered away by the Hindutva leaders at Ayodhya by playing the religion card in public. If the Hindutva supporters claim that the Ram temple is a matter of faith, why should it be consecrated at an 'unfinished' stage and in haste? What else can it be than garnering political gains?

Ranganathan Sivakumar, CHENNAI

## Tomorrow's passport

Sir, Education is tomorrow's passport. The capacity to learn is a gift, the ability to learn is a skill, but the willingness to learn is a choice. However, this right is not universal because there are lakhs of children for whom education is a luxury. Globally, almost 250 million children are unable to attend schools. Empowering people and fostering peace through the powerful device termed "education and learning" cannot be overstressed. Right to education is one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that the top humanitarian body of the world -- the United Nations -- hopes to achieve by the year 2030. Education and knowledge can do a world of difference to men and women in oppressed areas. They can be the "difference" their forefathers could not be.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Letters

### TO THE EDITOR

Readers of Orissa POST are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: [edit@orissapost.com](mailto:edit@orissapost.com)



B-15, Rasulgari Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

## Cops to act tough against use of coal by roadside eateries

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 25: Acting on the prolonged call of the environmental activists in the city, the Kolkata police have decided to act tough against the use of highly-polluting coal or wood ovens by roadside eateries, here.

City police headquarters have instructed all traffic guards in the city to prepare a list of such roadside eateries in the areas under their jurisdiction.

The traffic guards will send it to the city police headquarters, which in turn, will finally compile the individual reports sent by the traffic guards and send the final report to the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

As per estimates, in Kolkata, there are 10,000 street food vendors and since majority of them use coal or wood ovens, the extent of pollutants gas emitted from is well-imaginable.

About ten years back, a process was started regarding distribution of electric ovens to the owners of the street food vendors. The process started with Salt Lake on the northern outskirts of Kolkata.

Currently, only around 750 street food vendors are operating with electric ovens and that



too restricted mainly in the Salt Lake areas, while the others are operating with coal and wood ovens and some with kerosene-gas.

Environmental activists said that the city police should not stop just at preparing and filling the report to NGT and rather act against the "highly-pollutant" ovens at public places.

At the same time, the activists feel, the police should also start a sustained awareness campaign drive on the issue, while the state government should mull the idea of some financial assistance schemes to help the vendors in replacing the coal or wood ovens with electric ovens.

## RRI experts to study impact of Teesta's trajectory change

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 25: A team of experts from the River Research Institute (RRI) will visit West Bengal next month to study the impact of the change in the trajectory of Teesta river because of the recent flash-floods in Sikkim that caused heavy disaster both in the plains and the hills of North Bengal.

A communication has already been sent to the West Bengal government, and the state irrigation department has been advised to extend full cooperation to the visiting team of RRI experts so that they can complete their study assignment successfully.

Sources in the state irrigation department said that the route of the study of Teesta river's trajectory change will start from Sevoke near Siliguri and continue towards the water body's entry point in neighbouring Bangladesh.

"From the study, the team of experts would be able to give us an idea of whether the changes in the trajectory of Teesta river



will be permanent in nature or not. The study will also enable us to have a rough idea on whether there are further possibilities of trajectory changes in the near future or not," said a senior official of the state irrigation department.

He also said the findings will be important for the department in assessing the precautions to be taken at the time when the water level of the river will start rising again in the later part of the year. The last changes in the trajectory of Teesta are evident from the satellite pictures. This

is the fifth time that Teesta, which flows through the two states of Sikkim and West Bengal, as well as the two countries of India and Bangladesh, has changed its trajectory.

There is a growing apprehension that frequent changes in trajectory might impact the economic structure of the hills and plains in north Bengal to a great extent in the coming days.

As per the satellite pictures, the trajectory of the river has changed at multiple places both in the hills and the plains in north Bengal.

## NDA set to organise statewide 'padayatra'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 25: As part of its groundwork for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Kerala is organising an extensive statewide foot march for a month from January 27.

The primary objective of the campaign is to seek support from the people in a state where opposition parties hold sway before Lok Sabha polls, party sources said. BJP president JP Nadda will inaugurate the march in Kasaragod district January 27. The month-long campaign, led by BJP state chief K Surendran, is scheduled to commence from the Thalipadupu ground in the evening on the said date.

Titled "NDA Kerala Padayatra", the foot march would pass through Lok Sabha constituencies in various districts before culminating in Palakkad February 27, a party statement said here. Surendran would meet religious and social leaders and cultural icons during the journey and interact with the beneficiaries of various Central schemes.



Besides Nadda, union ministers and national leaders will inaugurate the padayatra in various districts and address the gathering each day.

The padayatra would cover Kottayam, Alappuzha and Thiruvananthapuram constituencies February 9, 10 and 12 respectively and Union Home Minister Amit Shah would inaugurate the march in the state capital, it said.

At least 25,000 people, including those who have made their mark in different fields, would take part in the march in each constituency. Besides the exhibition of tableaux featuring various schemes implemented by the Narendra Modi government, the march would also witness the release of the development document of the NDA, the statement added.



Leader of Opposition in Kerala Assembly VD Satheesan interacts with municipal workers during their protest in front of the state Secretariat, in Thiruvananthapuram, Thursday

## Kerala govt advocates new dam in Mullaperiyar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 25: Constructing a new dam to replace the existing over a century-old reservoir on river Mullaperiyar, located in the high-range district of Idukki, is the only solution to ensure the safety of the lakhs of people living downstream, the Kerala government said Thursday.

The government's reiteration of its stand on the issue was part of the customary policy address of his government in the State Assembly by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan.

He skipped major parts of the address, including mention of the over 125-year-old Mullaperiyar Dam, over which the state is locked in a battle with neighbouring Tamil Nadu and quickly finished by reading only the last paragraph.

While the opposition expressed disapproval of the Governor's quick ending of the policy address, the Left government sought to downplay it by stating Khan fulfilled his Constitutional obligation properly.

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## Bengal to set up forensic science university soon

A bill on this count will be placed at the West Bengal Assembly during the forthcoming Budget session, which is slated to commence from February 5 and continue till February 17, state government sources said

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 25: West Bengal government has decided to set up its own forensic science university in the state.

A bill on this count will be placed at the West Bengal Assembly during the forthcoming Budget session, which is slated to commence from February 5 and continue till February 17, state government sources said.

Sources said that the decision to set up the proposed university has been taken following the massive increase in the ambit of activities of the forensic scientists. Often the pressure of assignments is so high that the requirement of inviting forensic scientists from other states also surfaces.

"The matter of setting up the state's own forensic science university was discussed for quite some time both to ease the pressure on existing scientists in the related field in West Bengal as well as to avoid inviting experts concerned from outside. Now, the proposal is in the process of getting a final shape," said a senior official of the state government.

It is learnt that once the bill is passed in Parliament and the necessary ascent from the office of the Governor is available, the related work relating to setting up the proposed university namely preparation of the detailed project report and procuring land for the same among others will start.

However, the main question that will remain is getting adequate faculty for the proposed university. State government sources said that discussions on this issue are also on to find out ways by creating a faculty of permanent and visiting faculty members.

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Chinstrap penguins on the Gerlache Strait. Rare all-white penguin spotted in Antarctica

AFP



A man dressed up like chimpanzee interacts with children during 10th Kolkata International Children's Film Festival at cultural centre Nandan in West Bengal

PTI



Indian Navy carried out successful engagement of land target at enhanced range with advanced supersonic cruise missile

PTI



French farmers block the N12 road with their tractors to protest over price pressures, taxes and green gulation, grievances shared by farmers across Europe in Plouisy near Guingamp, France

REUTERS



Devotees take part in a firewalking ceremony during Thaipusam festival, at Vadapalani Murugan Temple in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

PTI



Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Vice President Omar Abdullah in Mecca, Saudi Arabia

PTI



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at a rally in Dhubri, Assam

PTI



# national



**If we want to defeat the BJP in Bengal and India, Mamata Banerjee is very much needed. Our leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge have immense respect for Mamata ji**  
JAIRAM RAMESH | CONGRESS LEADER

## DRONE RECOVERED

A drone was recovered from a field near the India and Pakistan border in Punjab's Tarn Taran district Thursday, a BSF spokesperson said. Acting on specific information, police conducted an extensive search operation on the outskirts of Dal village in Tarn Taran



## of the day quote

**Socialist leaders like Ram Manohar Lohia had fought a hard battle against Jawaharlal Nehru and, later, against Indira Gandhi. Therefore, most leaders from the socialist bloc are bitter about dynasty rule in politics. This was also the case with Karpoori Thakur, whom Nitish Kumar idolizes**  
KC TYAGI | SENIOR JD(UC) LEADER

**We are ready to discuss every issue that the speaker of the Lok Sabha and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha decide under the rules**  
ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL | UNION MINISTER

**The youth of Jammu and Kashmir who carry computers in their hands instead of stones are connected and contributing to the progress of Jammu and Kashmir. Over 7 lakh youths have taken part in sports and this is a big thing**  
AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER

# Modi holds talks with Macron

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Jaipur, Jan 25:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron Thursday held wide-ranging talks at a 19th century palace that showcases Jaipur's royal heritage to further consolidate bilateral strategic engagement. The talks took place hours after the French president was accorded a red-carpet welcome in the Pink City that was followed by a Modi-Macron roadshow from the astronomical observation site of Jantar Mantar to the iconic Hawa Mahal. Macron also visited the grand Amber Fort situated on the Aravalli range on the outskirts of Jaipur.

Macron will be the chief guest at Friday's Republic Day celebrations at the Kartavya Path, the ceremonial boulevard in the heart of the national capital.

Modi was the guest of honour at the prestigious Bastille Day Parade in Paris in July last.

Ahead of the talks between the two leaders at luxury hotel Taj Rambagh Palace, officials said the focus of the deliberations would be on shoring up cooperation in areas of defence and security, trade, climate change, nuclear energy and mobility of students and professionals.



**Macron, who is the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in Delhi January 26, also visited the hilltop Amber Palace, Jantar Mantar observatory and Hawa Mahal in a carefully curated tour that ended at an iconic palace-turned-hotel**

The French president's two-day visit to India is taking place as top negotiators from the two sides are eyeing to seal two mega defence deals providing for India's procurement of 26 Rafale-M (marine version) fighter jets and three French designed Scorpene submarines. The visit shows the "deep mutual trust" and "unwavering friendship" underpinning Indo-French ties, a

French readout said Wednesday. "President Macron's visit will consolidate the ambitious renewal of the France-India strategic partnership that the two leaders decided on in Paris on July 14 through the 'Horizon 2047 Roadmap,'" it said. Horizon 2047 is a blueprint to significantly bolster the ties when the two sides will celebrate the centenary of

diplomatic relations.

Modi also hosted a banquet for Macron and the members of his delegation at the hotel.

On Friday, Macron will witness the Republic Day celebrations as the Chief Guest.

A 95-member marching contingent and 33-member band contingent from France will take part in the parade.

Two Rafale fighter jets and an Airbus A330 multi-role tanker transport aircraft of the French air force will also feature in the celebrations.

The French marching contingent from the French Foreign Legion features six Indians. Macron will also attend the 'At Home' reception by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.

He is scheduled to hold a meeting with Murmu at 7.10 pm. Macron interacted there with a group of children. The delegation also browsed through artifacts on display at the temporary stalls set up near the entrance.

S Jaishankar and Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari were at the fort.

Cutouts and hoardings were earlier put up at several locations in Jaipur around the sites Modi and Macron were set to visit.

# Cong chief Kharge speaks to Mamata



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge Thursday spoke with West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee, senior party leader Jairam Ramesh said and asserted that the two parties "will find a way forward". Ramesh's remark came amid a Congress-TMC impasse over seat-sharing in Bengal for the Lok Sabha polls and a day after Banerjee announced that her party will fight the elections in the state "alone".

Congress president Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and everyone in the party would be "just delighted and privileged to have her as part of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra even if it is for a few minutes", AICC general secretary in-charge communications Ramesh told PTI. "Congress president Kharge has spoken with her today and we will find a way forward because her objective is the objective of the INDIA bloc which is to defeat the BJP resoundingly in West Bengal and convincingly in other parts of the country," he said. Ramesh said the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra would be immensely strengthened by her presence.

"Without her, we cannot fight the BJP in Bengal and the rest of the country. She is the integral, essential pillar of the op-

position bloc INDIA. She has played a crucial role in making the INDIA bloc a reality," the Congress leader said. Ramesh's remarks came after Gandhi expressed confidence in the unity of the opposition INDIA bloc in combating injustice nationwide.

The 'Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra', led by Gandhi, entered West Bengal Thursday from Assam through Bakshirhat in Cooch Behar district. It will take a two-day break January 26-27 before restarting January 28.

Banerjee had told reporters Wednesday, "I had given them (Congress) a proposal (on seat sharing) but they refused it at the outset. Our party has now decided to go it alone in Bengal." After Banerjee's sudden comments, the Congress has adopted a conciliatory approach with Ramesh asserting that the opposition bloc INDIA "cannot be imagined without Mamata Banerjee". The CPI (M)-led Left Front, Congress, and the TMC are part of the 28-party INDIA bloc.

In the 2019 elections, the TMC secured 22 seats, Congress won two, and the BJP bagged 18 seats in the state. TMC had previously allied with the Congress in the 2001 assembly polls, the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, and the 2011 assembly polls, leading to the ousting of the CPI (M)-led Left Front government of 34 years.

## SHORT TAKES

### ED searches Essel Group companies

**New Delhi:** The Enforcement Directorate Thursday said it raided companies of the Essel Group in Mumbai and recovered "incriminating" documents as part of its ongoing money probe linked to alleged diversion of funds worth over ₹2,000 crore from Religare Finvest Limited (RFL). The federal agency said that three premises linked to Konti Infrapower and Multiventures Pvt Ltd, Edison Infrapower and Multiventures Pvt Ltd, Asian Satellite Broadcast Ltd, Widescreen Holdings Pvt Ltd, Jayneer Capital Pvt Ltd, Spirit Infrapower and Multiventures Pvt Ltd and the residential premises of a former senior official of the Essel Group (who was not named) were raided Wednesday.

### Train engine catches fire

**Srinagar:** Fire broke out in the engine of a running train in J&K's Qazigund town Thursday but no casualties or damage was reported, officials said. Officials said the engine of the train going to Banihal from Budgam caught fire. "As smoke was seen billowing out of the engine, the train was stopped immediately and the fire was brought under control by the railway authorities. All the passengers are safe while the train also did not suffer any damage," an official said.

### Rare golden tiger sighted at Kaziranga

**Guwahati:** A rare Royal Bengal Tiger of golden morph was sighted at the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam, officials said Thursday. The Adult male tiger was spotted by a photographer who was visiting the park along with a local guide, KNP director Sonali Ghosh said. The golden phenotype, as demonstrated by the Kaziranga Tiger, is a rare recessive trait and is currently being investigated through non-invasive scat sampling and DNA mapping at the National Centre for Biological Sciences, she said.

### Over 12 hurt in clash

**Dhanbad:** More than 12 people were allegedly injured in a clash between activists of Marxists Coordination Committee (MCC) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel Thursday in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, police said. The clash occurred around 9.30 am during gherao of the DVC's Maithon administrative building by MCC workers led by former Nisha MLA Arup Chatterjee in protest against the eviction notice to the Maithon Dam-based shopowners.

## India rejects Pak's charge of Indian links to killing of 2 Pakistanis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** India Thursday dismissed as "false and malicious" propaganda Pakistan's allegations linking Indian agents to the assassination of two Pakistani terrorists in Sialkot and Rawalkot last year.

"It is Pakistan's latest attempt at peddling false and malicious anti-India propaganda," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. He said Pakistan will "reap what it sows", adding "to blame others for its own misdeeds can neither be a justification nor a solution."

The comments came hours after Pakistan claimed that it had "credible evidence" of links between what it called as "Indian agents" to the assassination of two Pakistani terrorists associated with the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

India was carrying out "extra-territorial and extra-judicial killings" inside Pakistan, Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi alleged at a press conference in Islamabad. "As the world knows, Pakistan has long been the epicentre of terrorism, organised crime, and illegal transnational activities," Jaiswal said. "India and many other countries have publicly warned Pakistan cautioning that it would be consumed by its own culture of terror and violence," he said.



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin being felicitated by the DMK leaders during the Language War Martyrs' Memorial Day organised by the party in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

## TN journalist brutally attacked

**Chennai:** A Tirupur-based journalist working for a Tamil television channel was brutally attacked by unidentified persons in his hometown and Chief Minister M K Stalin Thursday assured stern action against the perpetrators of the crime. The journalist was assaulted near his house at Palladam in Tirupur district on the night of January 24 and he was hospitalised. He sustained severe injuries. Expressing anguish, Stalin condemned the attack and promised tough legal action against the perpetrators, "whoever they may be." Leader of the opposition, Edappadi K Palaniswami expressed shock over the attack, slammed police for "slackness" and underlined that the journalist, Nesa Prabhu, had approached police four hours before the attack.

## 12 killed in massive road accident in UP

**Shahjahanpur (UP):** Twelve people, including three women, died Thursday morning when their autorickshaw collided head-on with a container truck plying on the wrong side of the road amid reduced visibility due to fog, police said. The occupants of the autorickshaw were going to Farrukhabad to take a bath in the Ganga river on the occasion of 'Purnima', they said. The tragic accident took place on the Bareilly-Farrukhabad road near Sugsi village in the Allahaganj police station area, about 50 kilometres from the city, Superintendent of Police (SP) Ashok Kumar Meena said. The container hit the autorickshaw coming from the Jalalabad side, killing all 12 passengers, who were going to Ghatia Ghat, Farrukhabad to take a bath in the Ganga on the occasion of 'Purnima', on the spot, he said.

## Shettar quits Cong to return to BJP

**New Delhi:** Former Karnataka chief minister Jagdish Shettar, who had quit the BJP to join the Congress ahead of the state assembly polls last year, rejoined his old party Thursday, reposing faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Shettar cited his long association with the BJP, and said many of his well-wishers including party workers and leaders wanted him to be back. The Lingayat leader joined the party here in the presence of former Karnataka chief minister B S Yediyurappa, Union ministers Bhupendra Yadav and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra and its media head Anil Balani.

## Police deny nod to Jarange for protest

**Mumbai:** Mumbai Police Thursday issued a notice to Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, who along with his thousands of supporters is on the way to the Maharashtra capital, saying no ground in the city can accommodate such a large gathering and he should hold his agitation in neighbouring Navi Mumbai instead. While Jarange wants to hold his protest at Azad Maidan, a designated site for agitations in south Mumbai from Friday, police suggested that he settle for International Corporate Park in Kharghar area of Navi Mumbai. The notice was issued by the senior inspector of the Azad Maidan Police Station under section 149 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

# India all set to celebrate 75th Republic Day

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** President Droupadi Murmu will lead India in celebrating the 75th Republic Day with an imposing display of its rising military might and rich cultural heritage during a 90-minute parade at the majestic Kartavya Path Friday.

The armed forces will display an array of home-grown weaponry and military equipment such as missiles, drone jammers, surveillance systems, vehicle-mounted mortars and BMP-II infantry combat vehicles at the parade.

For the first time, an all-women tri-services contingent will be part of the country's biggest ceremonial event.

In another historic first, Lieutenants Deepti Rana and Priyanka Sevda, who are among 10 women officers commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery for the first time last year, will lead the Swathi weapon locating radar and Pinaka rocket system at the parade. The parade will be heralded by over 100 women artistes playing Indian musical instru-



tributes to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath. CBI officers who probed big corruption cases like coal and Delhi excise police scams and the Nirav Modi case were among 31 former and serving agency personnel who were awarded police medals by the President on the occasion of Republic Day, officials said Thursday. Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) joint director Amit Kumar, who is now posted as Chhattisgarh Police ADG, led the probe into the coal scam that resulted in convictions in a number of cases. He has been awarded the coveted President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service, they said. During his stint in the CBI, Kumar held many crucial positions, including that of joint director (Policy). He was instrumental in supervising probes against online child sexual abuse, cybercrimes and economic frauds. He also investigated the Bharatpur riots case and was part of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (Kolkata, Rishikesh and Bali), according to the officials.

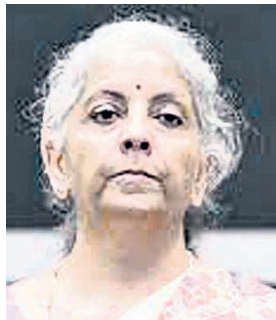
## Prez addresses nation

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam will prove to be a revolutionary tool for women's empowerment and go a long way in improving governance, President Droupadi Murmu said Thursday. The President made the remarks in her address on the eve of 75th Republic Day. "We also progressed further towards the ideal of gender equality, when the Parliament passed the historic women's reservation bill. I believe the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam will prove to be a revolutionary tool for women's empowerment," she said. "It will also go a long way in improving the processes of our governance. When more women will be involved in matters of collective importance, our administrative priorities will be more in tune with the needs of the masses," Murmu added.

## NOTICE

I, Sri Deepak Das, S/o Gobinda Chandra Das, Director of M/s EVOS Buildcon Pvt. Ltd., Regd. Office at Plot No.M/76, Baramunda Housing Board Colony, Baramunda, PS-Bharatpur, Bhubaneswar, Dist-Khordha, do hereby declare by this advertisement that, M/s EVOS Buildcon Pvt. Ltd. is the legal owner of the RSD and ROR's as mentioned below under Mouza-Raghuathpur, Tahasil-Bhubaneswar, Dist-Khordha bearing RSD No.4017 dtd.06.06.1981, RSD No.4474, dtd.10.10.1995, ROR Khata No.729/198, RSD No.8484, dtd.01.12.2003, ROR Khata No.897, RSD No.220, dtd.09.01.2004, RSD No.221, dtd.09.01.2003, RSD No.4497 dtd.31.07.1999, RSD No.2225 dtd.21.04.1999, RSD No.4494, dtd.31.07.1999, RSD No.4335, dtd.14.05.1986, RSD No.2255, dtd.09.03.1988, RSD No.18673, dtd.04.11.2009, RSD No.6585, dtd.23.12.1998, RSD No.4610, dtd.28.03.2008, RSD No.7669, dtd.23.05.2008, ROR Khata No.729/1155, ROR Khata No.729/1143, RSD No.11081900194, dtd.04.01.2019, RSD document No.11081902357 dtd.23.02.2019, RSD No.5859, dtd.10.09.2000, RSD No.1459, dtd.21.03.1997, RSD No.7962, dtd.20.12.1974, RSD No.4788, dtd.10.09.1997, RSD No.621, dtd.05.02.1999. The said documents are genuine and original which are lost/misplaced, the same has been reported at local police station dt.24.01.2024. If any person(s) has any claim or rights towards the said property may make any objection within 07 (seven) days from the publication of this notice.





**The government and the Reserve Bank are actively engaged in improving the central bank digital currency so that it can be used for cross-border payments**  
NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

## FOCUS ON FISHERMEN AT WTO

India will oppose any curbs on its subsidies to poor fishermen at the World Trade Organization (WTO) and demand a moratorium on fishing subsidies from advanced countries including the United States, and the European Union, three government officials said



## of the day quote

**We remained committed to maintaining our growth momentum. The Group continued its investments, evidenced by our asset base growth to ₹4.5 lakh crore**  
GAUTAM ADANI | CHAIRMAN, ADANI GROUP

**My immediate priority is to look for ways and means to arrest the declining RMG (ready-made garments) exports witnessed over the last few months**  
SUDHIR SEKHRI | CHAIRMAN, AEPG

**It is impossible for a layman to find out individual duty components for a product and calculate the total duty payable**  
AJAY SRIVASTAVA | CO-FOUNDER, GTRI

## Markets drop on selling in IT shares

**ON THE WEEKLY FRONT, BSE BENCHMARK FELL BY 982.56 POINTS OR 1.37%, AND NIFTY DECLINED 269.8 POINTS OR 1.24%**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mumbai, Jan 25:** Benchmark Sensex declined by 359 points while Nifty closed below the 21,400 level Thursday due to selling in IT shares and continuous foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 359.64 points or 0.51 per cent to settle at 70,700.67. The index opened lower and plunged further 741.27 points or 1.04 per cent to hit a low of 70,319.04 in day trade. As many as 19 Sensex shares dropped while 11 advanced.

The broader Nifty fell by 101.35 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 21,352.60 with 34 of its constituents closing in the red.

A rise in US bond yields and mixed financial results by corporates triggered FII selling, an-



alysts said. IT, pharma and FMCG shares declined while realty and energy stocks bucked the trend.

Among Sensex shares, Tech Mahindra fell by over 6 per cent after the company reported a 60 per cent decline in net profit to Rs 510.4 crore in the December quarter. Bharti Airtel, ITC, Asian Paints, HDFC Bank, Nestle, Tata Steel, and Maruti were among the other major laggards.

## NO TRADE BARRIERS Musk flags China EV fears

*Musk's comments come after BYD - with its cheaper models and a more varied lineup - overtook Tesla as the world's top-selling EV firm last quarter, despite the US automaker's deep price cuts through 2023*

REUTERS

**San Francisco, Jan 25:** Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Wednesday that Chinese automakers will "demolish" global rivals without trade barriers, underscoring the heat the US electric vehicle market leader faces from the likes of Warren Buffett-backed BYD, who are racing to expand worldwide. Chinese car companies were the "most competitive" and "will have significant success outside of China, depending on what kind of tariffs or trade barriers are established," Musk said on a post-earnings call with analysts Wednesday.

Asked about Musk's comments, the Chinese foreign ministry said at a regular briefing Thursday that it was unaware of the reports but advocated "maintaining a fair, just and open business environment".

But Musk has reasons to be concerned. He sparked a price war last year to woo consumers hit with high borrowing costs, in turn squeezing Tesla's margins and worrying investors. On Wednesday, Musk warned Tesla was reaching "the natural limit of cost down" with its existing lineup. He added there was "no obvi-



**If there are no trade barriers established, they will pretty much demolish most other car companies in the world. They're extremely good**  
ELON MUSK | CEO, TESLA

ous opportunity" to partner with Chinese rivals but Tesla was open to giving them access to its charging network and licensing other technologies such as self-driving.

**CHINA'S DOMINANCE** Meanwhile Chinese EV makers, adept at keeping costs in check with a stable supply chain, are moving fast. With rising competition and excess capacity in China, many are now working on rapidly expanding their foreign footprint after years of state subsidies helped boost domestic sales.

"The completeness and resilience of China's multi-decade state-directed battery materials processing infrastructure build out is biting hard," said Ross Gregory, a partner at Melbourne-based consultant New Electric Partners.

China's SAIC Motor, for instance, has been placing orders for more vehicle vessels in its fleet to counter shipping costs as it looks to boost sales overseas.

Still, brand awareness of Chinese car companies in the United States is extremely low and their reliability, durability and safety is middling, so they have a long way to go to win US

**CHEAPER TESLA:** Tesla plans to start producing a cheaper, mass market compact crossover codenamed "Redwood" mid-2025 to compete with inexpensive rivals. Musk confirmed that Tesla expects to start production of its next-generation EV at its Texas factory in the second half of 2025

market share, said Spencer Imel, a partner at consumer insights firm Lansgton.

"They enjoy high demand in China with innovation such as in-car technology and battery swapping," Imel said. "That, we believe, will be an important ingredient and a differentiator in their future growth overseas."

Musk's comments also come as the US presidential election picks up pace. President Joe Biden has said China was determined to dominate the EV market and that he "won't let that happen".

Europe has also taken a protectionist stance towards Chinese EV makers. Last year, the European Commission launched an investigation into whether to impose punitive tariffs to protect EU producers against cheaper Chinese EV imports it says are benefiting from state subsidies.

## Zee quits \$1.4bn cricket rights deal with Disney

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** India's Zee Entertainment has told Walt Disney, it does not intend to move forward with a deal to pay around \$1.4 billion for cricket TV rights it acquired from the US company, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Zee told Indian stock exchanges in August that it had signed a strategic licence agreement with Disney to take over certain International Cricket Council TV broadcast rights for four years, starting in 2024, while the US company would retain streaming rights.

"The deal is off ... Zee said they are not in a position to pay," one of the sources said. "Zee completely reneged on the rights."

The company was to pay for the rights over time but it missed the first \$200 million payment to Disney in recent weeks and told the US company it was walking back on the deal, the two sources said on condition of anonymity.

The collapse of Zee's planned merger with Sony's Indian business this week also put paid to Zee's TV rights deal with Disney, the sources said.

Zee faces mounting troubles, with the Sony merger collapse heaping pressure on one of India's most popular TV networks to pursue deals with new partners or focus on areas such as digital entertainment to revive its fortunes, analysts and industry sources say.

Zee's advertising revenues fell to \$488 million for the 2022-23 year, compared with about \$600 million five years ago. Cash reserves have dropped to \$86 million from \$116 million over the same period.

## NEW VENTURES

### JSW Group forays into defence sector

**NEW DELHI:** Indian conglomerate JSW Group Thursday announced its strategic entry into the defence sector with the establishment of a new business vertical that would focus both on the domestic and overseas markets. The JSW Defence and Aerospace (JSW Defence) would not only supply state-of-the-art equipment to the Indian Armed Forces but also intends to establish itself as a key player at the global stage and contribute to India's ambition to become a \$5 billion defence export economy, the company said.

### Online payments: Zomato gets RBI nod

**MUMBAI:** Zomato Payment Pvt Ltd (ZPPL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zomato Limited, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as an online payment aggregator, according to an exchange filing made by the company on BSE Friday. January 24 2024 onwards, ZPPL has received its certificate that authorises the business to act as a payment aggregator and issuer of prepaid payment instruments.

### 2-day Canara Cricket League from Jan 27



**Bhubaneswar:** Canara Bank is organising 'Canara Cricket League 2024' January 27 and 28 at SOA University Cricket Ground. Several public sector banks and private sector banks are going to participate in the event.

# SCALING NEWER HEIGHTS IN ENERGY SECURITY



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BAZBALL GETS INDIAN MAKEOVER AS SPINNERS, JAISWAL PUT HOSTS IN STRONG POSITION ON DAY ONE OF THE FIRST TEST AGAINST ENGLAND

# INDIA TAKE COMMAND



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Hyderabad, Jan 25:** After spinners put England batters through a harsh scrutiny, Yashasvi Jaiswal rolled out his own version of 'Bazball' en route to a crushing fifty as India posted 119/1 to take the upper hand on day one of the opening Test here Thursday.

At close, Jaiswal (76 batting, 70b, 9x4, 3x6) and Shubman Gill (14 batting) were at the crease and the hosts are 127 runs in arrears of England's anemic first innings total of 246, which was built around skipper Ben Stokes' hardheaded 88-ball 70 (6x4, 3x6).

Around Stokes, England batsmen crumbled as the spin trio of Ravichandran Ashwin (3/68), Ravindra Jadeja (3/88) and Axar Patel (2/33) rudely nudged them back to reality of batting on an Indian pitch that offers barrowful of turn and grip even

**BRIEF SCORES**  
England 246 (Ben Stokes 70, Jonny Bairstow 37, Ben Duckett 35; R Ashwin 3/68, Ravindra Jadeja 3/88, Jasprit Bumrah 2/28, Axar Patel 2/33); India 119/1 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 76 batting).  
Match to continue.

**Jaiswal had a great time in the IPL, had a wonderful start in first-class cricket. I am seeing Rishabh Pant there. His fearless cricket is serving him well. He has not put a foot wrong. He has taken to Test cricket like a fish to water**

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

from day one.

But when the Indian openers came out bat the RGI Stadium, pitch appeared to have lost its bite and the England tweakers looked like a defanged lot.

Jaiswal wrapped himself with the presence of his captain Rohit Sharma (24) at the other end, tearing into England bowlers with gusto. The gap between runs and balls could give the left-hander's innings a hue of carelessness but it was anything but that.

Jaiswal started his and the team's innings with a clipped boundary to square leg off pacer Mark Wood, but that was just the appetizer as the left-hander offered a harsh welcome to Tom Hartley to international cricket. The 22-year-old smashed the England left-arm spinner for two sixes in his first over. Jaiswal and Rohit added 80 runs in just 12.1 overs to give their side a wonderful launching pad.

It came to an end when Rohit gave a catch to Stokes off left-arm spinner Jack Leach while trying to clear him over the long-on. But for the rest of the innings, it was a futile toil for the English bowlers as this could be the beginning of a long and tiring tour for them. To make it even more exasperating for them, they have already exhausted all the three reviews for this innings as well.

However, the whole atmosphere was different when the Indian spinners were operating - the ball bounced, turned and gripped to leave the English batters an edgy group except a few small passages.

One of them came in the post-lunch session when Joe Root (29, 60b) and Jonny Bairstow (37, 58b) added 61 runs for the fourth-wicket as England attempted to stay above the fast-rising water.

Root and Bairstow, generally, relied on sweep and the reverse avatar of that shot occasionally to gather runs. However, Root

was culpable of being too pre-meditative and it eventually led to his downfall.

Jadeja hit a fuller length which resulted in a top-edge off Root's bat that flew to short fine leg where Jasprit Bumrah did not have to strain himself much to complete the catch.

Bairstow too did not last long as Axar delivered a peach from wide of the crease to take out the batter's off-stump. Ben Foakes has this reputation of being a fine player of spin but on this day only struggle was visible as he departed cheaply as England lost five wickets in that session for 107 runs.

It was left to captain Stokes, who employed conventional and unconventional sweeps to counter spin, to wage a lonely battle in the company of tailenders and even looked solid during his stay in the middle.

But then on dire occasions like the one England encountered here, even a lion-hearted warrior like Stokes could only add a modicum of respectability to the total.

In the morning session, England might have daydreamed of another buccannery effort after openers Ben Duckett and

## ROHIT OPTIMISTIC

**Hyderabad:** India skipper Rohit Shama firmly believes that their "time will come" to win an elusive ICC trophy, a milestone they have been chasing for the past decade. "The last three years have been great. Except winning the finals of ICC trophies, we have won everything," Rohit said while talking to JioCinema on the sidelines of their opening Test against England here. "That's one thing we've not been able to accomplish, but I think time will come. All we need to do is stay in a good mindset, not worry too much about the past, because you can't change the past. What you can change is what is going to come next, so all of us are quite focussed on that. We are playing our hearts out."

Zak Crawley made 25 runs in the first four overs which later swelled to 55 in 11.5 overs. But Ashwin underlined his mastery over left-handers for a zillionth time while dismissing Duckett.

The Indian spinners rushed through that creek to dismantle the England innings as India tightened the grip over the proceedings reducing the visitors to 60/3.

# Musheer century helps India U-19 crush Ireland

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bloemfontein (South Africa), Jan 25:** Musheer Khan gave ample display of his immense talent with a superb hundred as India steam-rolled minnows Ireland by a whopping 201 runs to virtually qualify for the Super Six round of the ICC U-19 World Cup here Thursday.

Courtesy Musheer's master-class (118, 106b, 9x4, 4x6), India posted an imposing 301/7 against Ireland, which in any case, would have been an uphill challenge to surpass.

In the end, Ireland managed a paltry 100 in 29.4 overs with medium pacer Naman Tiwari (4/53) and left-arm spinner Saumy Kumar Pandey (3/21) doing the bulk of the damage. Seven Irish batters failed to reach double figures. The Indian team were just too good for the Irish and the gulf in standard was evident across all departments.

India have now won both their group league games and the game against USA, which is 'mini-India' with 11 expats of Indian descent, is expected to be another walk in the park.

However, the day belonged to 18-year-old Mumbai boy Musheer: On the same day when his elder brother Sarfaraz scored 161 in an unofficial Test versus England Lions in Ahmedabad, thousands

of kilometres away in Bloemfontein, Musheer paced his innings brilliantly.

He took only 34 balls to race to 100 from 50, having scored the first 50 runs off 66 balls. Along with skipper Uday Saharan (75, 84b, 5x4), Musheer added 156 as the young Indian batters gave a good account of themselves, albeit against a weaker bowling attack.

In the end, Sachin Dhas, perhaps the most exciting talent in the U-19 set-up, smashed a 9-ball 21 to take India past 300-run mark, which is the highest score in an U-19 international at this ground. India scored 119 runs in the last 10 overs.

However, the Indian innings was about Musheer's brilliant game awareness as he took his time before unleashing a brutal assault on the Irish bowlers.

Very strong on the on-side, all his maximums came in the region between square leg, deep mid-wicket and long-on. He treated opposition's best pacer Oliver Riley (3/55) with disdain, hitting him for two sixes.

## BRIEF SCORES

**India U-19 301/7** (Musheer Khan 118, Uday Saharan 75; Oliver Riley 3/55) beat **Ireland 100** (Daniel Forkin 27 n o; Naman Tiwari 4/53, Saumy Kumar Pandey 3/21) by 201 runs.



# Title holder Sabalenka in Australian Open final



ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Melbourne, Jan 25:** Defending champion Aryna Sabalenka avenged a US Open final loss to Coco Gauff and became the first woman since Serena Williams to reach back-to-back finals at the Australian Open Thursday. Sabalenka attacked Gauff's serve throughout a 7-6(7-2), 6-4 semifinal win. She will meet Zheng Qinwen or Dayana Yastremska in Saturday's championship decider. Zheng and No.93-ranked Yastremska were playing their first-ever Grand Slam semifinal.

Sabalenka is on a 13-match roll at Melbourne Park, where she made her Grand Slam breakthrough last year. Williams reached consecutive finals here in 2015, '16 and '17.

Gauff went into the semifinals unbeaten in 2024 after winning a title in Auckland, New Zealand. The 19-year-old American was on a 12-match winning streak in majors and attempting to be the first player

since Naomi Osaka in 2020-21 to win the US Open and Australian Open titles back to back.

She'd worked out how to beat Sabalenka in New York last September to win her first major title but didn't have the answers this time against the only player in the final four with semifinal experience in Australia.

## Historic achievement

In doubles, 43-year-old Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden advanced to their second consecutive Grand Slam men's final by beating Zhang Zhizhen and Tomas Machac 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(10-7).

Tournament officials said Bopanna and Ebden, at a combined age of 79 years, will become the oldest No.1 pairing in tennis history after the tournament. Bopanna and Ebden, ranked second in men's doubles, lost to Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury in the US Open final last September. In Saturday's final, they'll play Italian pair Simone Bolelli and Andrea Pavanessi.

# Odisha FC sail into Super Cup final

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 25:** Holders Odisha FC took another step towards defending their Kalinga Super Cup crown beating Mumbai City FC (MCFC) 1-0 in an ill-tempered yet action-packed semifinal Thursday. They will face East Bengal in the final Sunday.

Mumbai City came flying out of the blocks and almost had the lead in the second minute of the game. From a corner, Jorge Pereyra rose highest at the near post to glance a header towards goal. Agonizingly, though, his attempt hit the inside of the post and bounced out, cleared to safety by Mourtada Fall.

It was as good as it got for MCFC in the first half though, and soon enough Odisha were dictating the play, albeit without much effect. Almost all their attempts came via hopeful punts from distance, with Roy Krishna and Isak Vanlalratfela coming closest to opening the scoring for the home side.

The goal finally came right on the edge of halftime, and though wholly deserved also seemed cruel to MCFC who had slowly edged their way back into the game.

Chasing after a through ball, Mauricio was brought down by Phurba Lachempa inside the box. The referee did not hesitate in



Odisha FC players celebrate their goal against Mumbai City FC at Kalinga Stadium, Thursday

pointing to the spot, and Mauricio took the responsibility of giving his side the lead. He was just as clinical as expected, curling it into the right corner to spark noise in the stands.

Just like the first half, MCFC were electric off the blocks in the second and off a five-minute passage of play forced a save from Lalthuammawia Ralte and even hit the crossbar from a header off a corner.

The game turned into an end-to-end battle soon after, Odisha desperate to put the Islanders away, and MCFC driving forward in hordes to get the equaliser. All that desperation saw MCFC lose energy in the final 10 minutes of the game, a period when Odisha had multiple chances to kill the game.

Vanlalratfela in particular had the best opportunity. Krishna brilliantly cut back a Mauricio

cross to present the Mizo lad with a chance inside the six-yard area. He, however, blasted high.

The game descended into chaos in injury time as MCFC lost their heads, with Pereyra and Rostyn Griffiths shown straight reds for violent conduct and Gurkirat Singh picking up a second yellow. They ended the game with eight men on the pitch as Odisha cruised into another Super Cup final.

# Bopanna, Chinappa shortlisted for Padma Shri honour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 25:** Tennis star Rohan Bopanna, who is set to be crowned World No.1 in the doubles format, was Thursday selected for the prestigious Padma Shri honour by the government along with six other athletes including veteran squash player Joshna Chinappa. Others, who have been selected for the honour are hockey player Harbinder Singh, Uday Deshpande, a practitioner of Mallakhamb, archer Purima Mahtao, para badminton coach Gaurav Khanna and para swimmer Satendra Singh Lohia.

# Kohli wins ODI Cricketer of the Year award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dubai, Jan 25:** Indian batting maestro Virat Kohli was Thursday crowned the ICC men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023 for his excellent run in the format last year headlined by a phenomenal outing in the World Cup at home.

This is the fourth such award for Kohli, who was the second most prolific run-scorer in ODIs last year behind compatriot Shubman Gill. The former India skipper finished the year with 1,377 runs which included six centuries and eight half-centuries.

The year will forever be remembered as the one in which

- SIR GARFIELD SOBERS TROPHY FOR MEN'S CRICKETER OF THE YEAR  
**Pat Cummins (Australia)**
- RACHAEL HEYHOE FLINT TROPHY FOR WOMEN'S CRICKETER OF THE YEAR  
**Nat Sciver-Brunt (England)**
- MEN'S TEST CRICKETER OF THE YEAR  
**Usman Khawaja (Australia)**
- WOMEN'S ODI CRICKETER OF THE YEAR  
**Chamari Athapaththu (Sri Lanka)**
- DAVID SHEPHERD TROPHY FOR UMPIRE OF THE YEAR  
**Richard Illingworth (England)**
- SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD: **Zimbabwe cricket team**

11 matches.

This is the seventh individual ICC award won by Kohli during his glittering career, and his fourth in the ODI category after previous wins in 2012, 2017 and 2018.

He also won the Test award in 2018 while the years 2017 and

2018 saw him also win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.

Kohli claimed the silverware from a shortlist that included countrymen Gill and Mohammed Shami, plus New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell.

Kohli lost out on the race for the Cricketer of the Year Award to Australian captain Pat Cummins, who won it ahead of compatriot Travis Head and Indian duo Ravindra Jadeja and Kohli.

Cummins is the fifth Australian to win the trophy, following Ricky Ponting (2006 and 2007), Mitchell Johnson (2009 and 2014), Michael Clarke (2013) and Steve Smith (2015).