

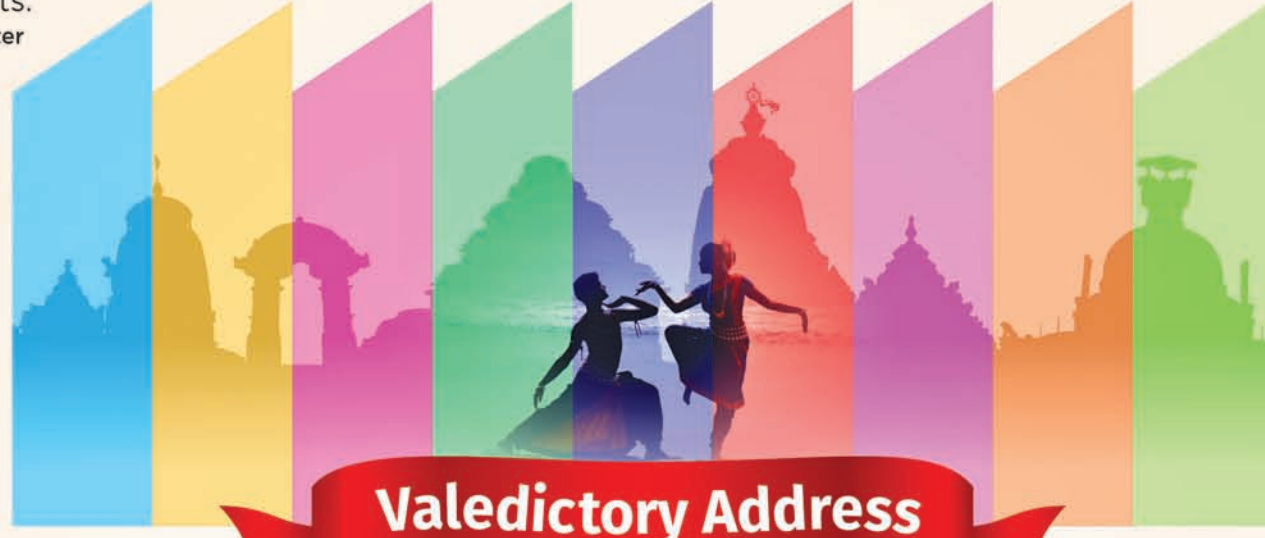


DADLS-83



Together, we celebrate India, Indianness, our culture, our progress and connect to our roots.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Honouring the Commendable Accomplishment of Indian Diaspora



and Conferment of PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARDS

by **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**
Hon'ble President of India



PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS CONVENTION

10th January 2025

Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar

in the august presence of

Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati
Governor of Odisha

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister of Odisha

Dr S Jaishankar
Union Minister of External Affairs

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Minister of Education

Shri Jual Oram
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Kirtivardhan Singh
Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Shri Pabitra Margherita
Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles



Scan for Programme Details



Programme Highlights

- Plenary Sessions on **Diaspora Divas** : Celebrating Women's Leadership and Influence - Nari Shakti
- Diaspora Dialogues** : Stories of Culture, Connection, and Belongingness

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JESSICA ALBA, CASH WARREN HEADING FOR DIVORCE

Hollywood star Jessica Alba and her producer husband Cash Warren have reportedly split after 16 years of marriage. As per sources, the two are nearing a divorce. The couple got married May 19, 2008, and has three children together.

BALDONI TO TAKE BOLD STANCE AGAINST BLAKE

Justin Baldoni has accused Blake Lively of banishing him and his loved ones to the basement during the *It Ends With Us* premiere. He claims this overshadowed what should have been a significant career moment.



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com
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FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES
Now that last you have realised that you have been preoccupied with work at the cost of your family life. Making up to them now is going to take a lot more effort. Ganesh says be ready to open your purse strings for either eating out, going out for a movie or shopping at the best places.

TAURUS
You are likely to turn excessively self-centred today, says Ganesh. This could cause you to be very insecure. You will have a tendency to control and dominate others. There is all likelihood that you will thereby jeopardize important relationships. You are advised to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of all those you come across.

GEMINI
The day promises sensitivity and compassion for you, predicts Ganesh. You may plan a trip with your family members. You may also invest your money in various financial companies, as securing the future of your family will be foremost on your mind. Moreover, you will also save some hefty amount to meet future needs.

CANCER
A day to indulge in fantasy. Your ideas will be fantastic. Your status and prestige go up. People will praise your efforts. (Your efforts will be appreciated). A day of creativity and success, with Ganesh's blessings in tow.

LEO
Agreed that home is where the heart is. But today, your home is where your troubles will be. The faster you try to run away from them, the quicker they seem to catch up with you, says Ganesh. So, scooting off may not be the best solution. Some people around you may try to blow things out of proportion; the best way to keep them in check is with a smile.

VIRGO
Children will be a source of a lot of appreciation today, in and out of the classroom. Your logical abilities will become stronger. Ganesh advises you to stay peaceful, flow with the tide and enjoy yourself, regardless of what happens in the day.

LIBRA
Ganesh says those of you who are married or in love will experience a good time today. As you spend more time with your life partner by going out for a drive or for dinner, you will come closer to them. Today is a day full of joy, vigor and happiness for you.

SCORPIO
Being a workaholic may divert your attention from your family and you may have to bear the consequences. It's time to sort differences with your spouse. But, all this while, you need to be calm and patient. Watch your words in case of any arguments, warns Ganesh.

SAGITTARIUS
Good Samaritans around you may give unsolicited, but valuable advice. Take it as a hint, and consider it for your betterment. Take your decision after following the advice, and this may definitely yield benefits, says Ganesh.

CAPRICORN
You want to enhance your knowledge by exploring foreign shores, but luck hasn't favoured you yet. Ganesh predicts today to be a favourable day for you to try again for the stock market. If associated with the Stock Market or speculation, you are likely to make profits. You will come across many opportunities, but you need to identify and explore them to the fullest.

AQUARIUS
Meeting people from different walks of life, having a good conversation with them and widening the horizon of your knowledge - this will be the highlight of today for the Bull. At work, you will have a busy day with plenty of meetings, discussions, planning and execution, feels Ganesh.

PISCES
Today you will get attention from the opposite sex and this will play an important role in your success in the near future. Due to the favourable alignment of the planets you will receive more than your expectations. Ganesh feels that even though you are a calculative and cautious person, you will tend to be aggressive, outgoing and willing to take risks today.

Rakul on unreal beauty standards

MUMBAI: Rakul Preet Singh, known for her films, has become a vocal advocate for wellness, fitness and balanced living. Recently, in an interview with Hindustan Times, Rakul opened up about the pressure to maintain physical appearance and how it can lead to internal conflict. She admitted, "I've been dealing with this in my head for a while. I've always been into wellness, and I like the fit way of being. But having said that, there is a fine line before it can become your obsession, which has happened to me in the past. But I had to constantly tell myself that it's okay; you don't have to weigh yourself daily, and that's not my validation. This is the first time I'm speaking about it."

Rakul addressed the guilt many feel after indulging in food or stepping away from fitness routines, especially during vacations. She highlighted how young girls, influenced by social media, often

seek validation through appearances, which can lead to eating disorders. "It's not just actors but Gen-Z and younger generations who struggle with this. Many young girls are bulimic or anorexic. We need more open conversations and food experts to guide healthier living," she said.

On the work front, Rakul will star in *De De Pyaar De 2*, where she will reprise her role of Ayesha Khurana opposite Ajay Devgn, with R. Madhavan reportedly playing her father.



MUMBAI: Actress Karisma Kapoor has revealed the rules she will be abiding by in 2025.

Karisma took to Instagram stories, where she shared a post which had the "rules for 2025" clearly mentioned. Going by the post, the actress seems to be prioritising herself in the new year.

The post she re-shared read: "Rules for 2025: Call who calls you. Visit who visits you. Ignore who ignores you."

The elder sister of Kareena Kapoor Khan, who is lovingly called as Lolo, had earlier shared a picture of herself dressed in an all-black outfit. She completed her look with her hair tied-up neatly, subtle make-up and dangling earrings. She captioned the post as: "Black and bold."

Last month, during her grandfather Raj Kapoor's 100 years, Karisma shared a heartfelt anecdote about the late star on a special episode of *Indian Idol*.

The episode saw the actress sharing heartfelt anecdotes and cherished memories, highlighting the Kapoor family's contributions to Indian cinema. Playback singer Shreya Ghoshal, music composer Vishal Dadlani, and rapper Badshah along with the contestants came together to pay the tribute to the cinema legend.

Karisma's 2025 mantra

LA BLAZE

PeeCee's shout out to 'brave' first responders

MUMBAI: Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas praised "brave" first responders for working through the night and continuing to help affected families in the wake of the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles.

Priyanka took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a post of "first responders" trying to control the wildfire, which has destroyed thousands of acres of land.

Thanking them, she wrote: "A huge shoutout to the incredibly brave first responders. Thank you for working tirelessly overnight and continuing to help families affected. @lasdhq @losangelesfiredepartment @lapdhq".

The actress had earlier shared a clip of the wildfire engulfing the Los Angeles neighbourhood.

She could be heard saying in the video, "it's crazy."

Her post also included the caption, "My thoughts are with everyone affected."



Hope we are all able to be safe tonight."

Priyanka dropped another glimpse of the Palisades Fire in Los Angeles, "Fast-moving Palisades fire in LA scorches thousands of acres, destroys homes".

On the work front, the global head turner has several exciting projects lined up, including *Heads of State*, where she stars alongside Idris Elba and John Cena. *Heads of State* is an action comedy film directed by Ilya Naishtul.



In the mood for samosa and dahi-bara?

For those unaware of why they year-end mood in one of the top-most engineering institutes of our (Indigo) nation soured, allow me to Gee!.. spot it for you. A sponsor's attempt at a cheeky promotional with pun-dripping standees claimed to be up for creating awareness on certain safe practices, was screwed in a quickie...err... jiffy, after the display gave the organisers and students premature fest-y vibes and they were in mood to compromise on institutional ethics.

True leadership ethics were likewise displayed in the land down under when a certain Indian gentleman



admitted to his bat not being in the mood to talk and graciously stepped down.

Meanwhile in homeland, cold wintery evenings may be getting us in the mood for desi-samosa parties but quite a few afar away Uncle Sam's

seem to be in no mood to have batches of desi-origin videshi samosa entrée refreshing their parties. There is due caution in the air, but what they need to understand is that *frying* and *trying* even a single samosa might just give them a w(V)

As the celebrated samosa or idli have long gone global, having settled in with a stamp of NRI (non-resident item), unsetting French fries and the likes and spreading their *desi-ness* outside Bharat, we diligently continue to make more. We are also not far behind in celebrating their contribution to 'Viksit Bharat' once in every 2 years, this time around in our state that happens to be home to the traditional dahi-bara as well. Given our expanding diaspora, one cannot help but *mood-i-ly* wonder about the extent of indigestion that will follow Uncle Sam's if a dahi-bara caucus or chhena-poda caucus gets built!

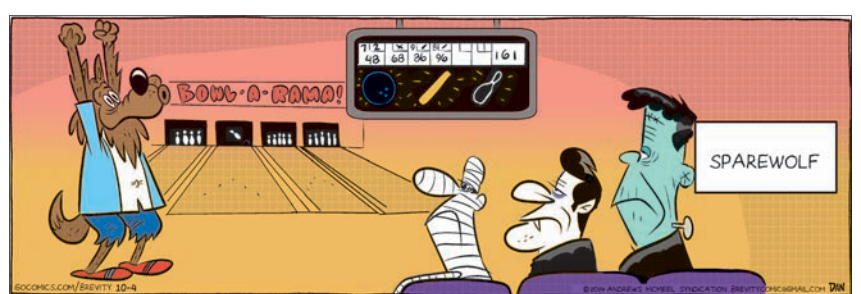
PEANUTS



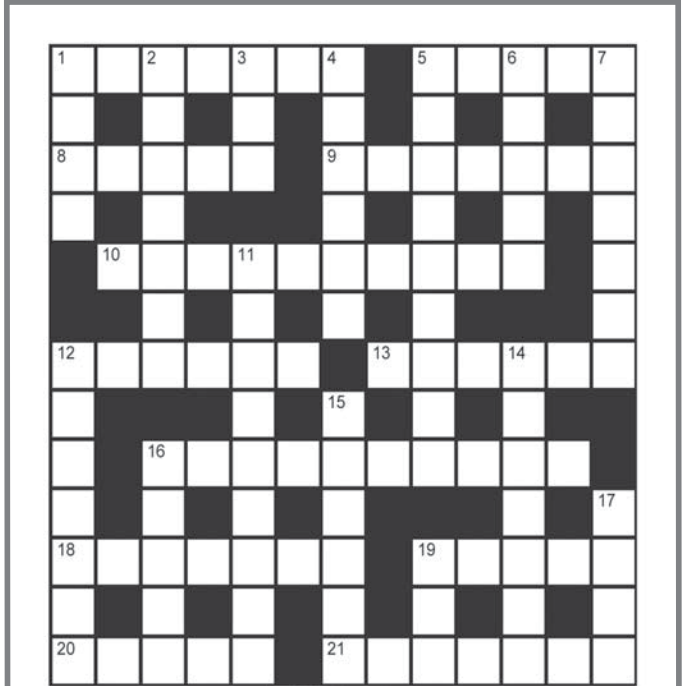
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



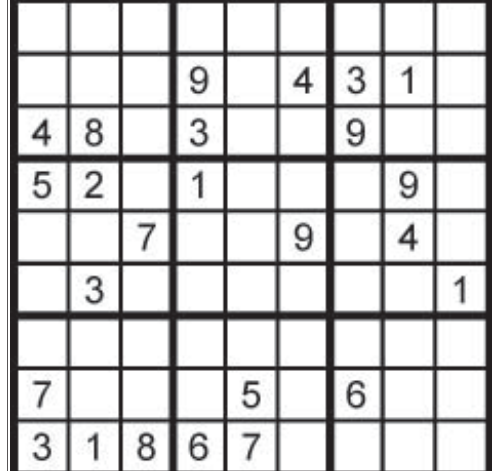
FUN POST CROSSWORD



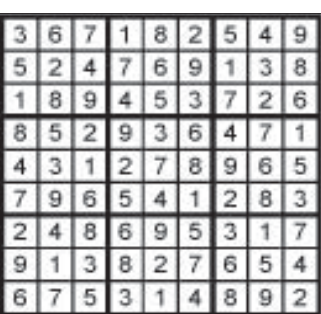
- Across**
1 Rushed
5 Show flexibility
8 Vexation
9 Refrigerator drawer
10 Most telephone lines (5-5)
12 Disorder
13 Small fallen tree branches
16 Impediments
- Down**
18 16th century sailing vessel
19 Eskimo dwelling
20 Desert haven
21 Single sweet treat
- Across**
5 Ancient Athenian philosopher
6 Savoury jelly
7 Despots
11 Kinship group
12 West Bank village
14 Indian bean tree
15 Romp
16 Pub game
17 Field mouse
19 Rascal

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.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW



Row over Jat quota

Arvind Kejriwal accuses the Centre of reneging on its promise to provide reservation to Jat community in Delhi

NATIONAL | P7



Lebanon's new president

Lebanon parliament votes to elect the country's army commander, Joseph Aoun, as head of state

INTERNATIONAL | P8



SIPs at new high

Monthly systematic investment plans (SIPs) surpass the Rs 26,000 crore-mark for the first time in the month of December

BUSINESS | P9



Shuttlers shine

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty cruise to quarterfinals at Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament

SPORTS | BACK PAGE

Future not in war, but in peace: PM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Asserting that the world today listens to India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday said due to the country's heritage, it is able to tell the international community that the future does not lie in 'yudh' (war) but in 'Budh' (Buddha, a symbol of peace).

Addressing the diaspora during the inaugural session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Modi said India is not only the mother of democracy, but democracy is a part of people's lives here.

Emphasising that he has always considered the Indian diaspora as ambassadors of India, the PM expressed his joy in meeting and conversing with fellow citizens around the world and said the love and blessings he receives from them are unforgettable. "I have always believed that our diaspora is our 'Rashtraboot', and I closely interact with them during my visits overseas," he said.

Underlining India's growing global role, the PM said, "Today's India not only firmly asserts its point, but also strongly amplifies the voice of the Global South." He highlighted the unanimous support for India's proposal to make the African Union a permanent member of the G-20, emphasising India's commitment to 'Humanity First'. Noting that at the time when the world was witnessing the expansion of empires by the power of the sword, Emperor Ashoka chose the path of peace, he said this was the strength of India's heritage. "Due to this heritage,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves during the inauguration of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar, Thursday. Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Jai Oram, Dharmendra Pradhan and Ashwini Vaishnaw are seen

India is able to tell the world - 'bhavishya yudh mein nahi hai, Budh mein hai' (the future does not lie in war but in Buddha)," he said.

"We are not just the mother of democracy, but democracy is part of our lives, our lifestyle. We don't have to be taught diversity rather, our life runs on diversity. That's why wherever Indians go they become part of the society of that particular place. We respect the rules and traditions of that country and also honestly serve that country and its society, contributing to its growth and prosperity," he said.

Kangaloo hails India's contribution to world

Addressing the diaspora through virtual mode as a chief guest, President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo said India has made some of the 'greatest contributions' to the world civilisation in various fields such as mathematics, medicine and navigation. "India's contributions to the world's development are remarkable. The world's first university was established in Takshashila in 700 BC. India's Ayurveda is widely acknowledged as an earlier school of medicine and the art of navigation was born in the Sindhu river about 6,000 years ago," she said, adding Algebra, trigonometry and use of Zero (0) were also first developed in India.

Take part in state's growth journey: CM

Asserting that Odisha is a land of limitless opportunities, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi called upon the Indian diaspora to participate in the state's growth journey. Majhi said, "Odisha is not just about its glorious past and natural beauty, it is a land of limitless opportunities for the future." "I urge you all to explore these opportunities and contribute to the growth and prosperity of your homeland. I invite you to join hands with us in shaping a bright future for Odisha, and India as well. Together, we can realise 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," Majhi said.

The PM said it was because of the diaspora that he keeps his head high wherever he goes. "I do not forget the love, affection and prestige I receive across the world. I would like to say thank you. This is because of you, I keep my head high across the world. During the last 10 years, I have met several leaders across the world. The world leaders praise the Indian diaspora. It's because of the social values you add to their society," he said.

The PM said the diaspora played a major role in Independence in 1947, and sought their

help to make India a developed country by 2047. He said India is not only a young country but also a country of skilled youths.

"The government is trying to ensure that whenever Indian youths go abroad, they go with skills," Modi said.

"In just 10 years, 25 crore people have been lifted out of poverty in India. In just 10 years, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world from the 10th. The day isn't far when India will be the third-largest economy. India's success is being witnessed by the world," he said. **MORE P6**

UK launches sanctions to combat illegal migration

AGENCIES

London, Jan 9: The UK Thursday announced the 'world's first' new sanctions regime to combat people smuggling crime rings and block the illicit finance fuelling such operations as part of measures to crack down on illegal migration.

The government said the new standalone sanctions are designed to target irregular migration and organised immigration crime, which will allow the authorities to target individuals and entities enabling dangerous journeys.

The new sanctions regime is expected to come into force within the year as experts from across government work with law enforcement and operational Home Office colleagues to stem finance flows at their source and deter smugglers facilitating irregular migratory movements, including dangerous sea crossings across Europe.

"We must dismantle the crime gangs facilitating breach-

es of our borders. By crippling illicit finance rings allowing smugglers to traffic vulnerable people across Europe, we will deliver on our Plan for Change and secure UK borders," said Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

"That means being bold and innovative in our policy making to ensure we are leaving no stone unturned. My government will do everything in our power to save lives and protect our borders for years to come," he said.

The Labour government's Plan for Change is designed to reduce dangerous small boat crossings across the English Channel and end the routine use of asylum hotels as part of measures to bring down soaring net migration.

UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy laid out the details in a speech as he noted that it was "completely unrealistic" to combat irregular migration without a role for his department - the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

ment will do everything in our power to save lives and protect our borders for years to come," he said.

SHORT TAKES

District-level squads to curb malpractice: CHSE

Bhubaneswar: District-level squads will be formed to curb malpractice during the upcoming Class XII (Plus II) examination, Council of Higher Secondary Education (CHSE) Controller of Examination Prasanta Kumar Parida said, Thursday. The CHSE had formed district-level squad in three southern Odisha districts last year to check malpractice during the examination. As the experiment was successful, the authorities have decided to implement it in all districts this year.

CISF constable shoots self dead in Rourkela

Rourkela: A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) constable shot himself dead while on duty inside the Rourkela Steel Plant here in the early hours of Thursday. The deceased constable has been identified as Abhinandan PK, 23, a native of Kerala. Around 2.30am, when his colleagues heard a loud noise, they rushed to the spot and found that Abhinandan shot himself from his service pistol on the right side of his head, a police officer said. The constable was taken to IGH, where he was declared dead by the doctors, the officer said.

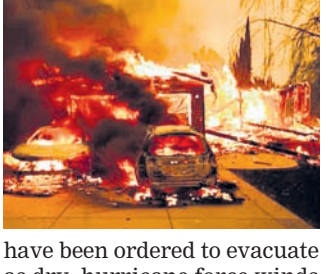
RING OF FIRE TIGHTENS AROUND LOS ANGELES

REUTERS

Los Angeles, Jan 9: A terrifying wave of wildfires squeezing Los Angeles on multiple fronts pushed closer to the symbolic heart of the US film industry Thursday after a new blaze ignited in the hills overlooking Hollywood Boulevard and its Walk of Fame.

The crescent of flames squeezing Los Angeles - including a huge fire between Santa Monica and Malibu on the city's western flank and a conflagration in the east near Pasadena - was so expansive that it was visible from space as a huge pincer.

More than 100,000 people



have been ordered to evacuate as dry, hurricane-force winds spread flames across parched ground that has seen no rain for months. At least five people have died since the fires erupted Tuesday.

The homes of movie stars and celebrities were among those consumed by flames, which to-

re through some of the world's most lavish real estate, and in the case of the Hollywood Hills fire, above showbiz landmarks instantly recognisable around the world.

"This firestorm is the big one," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass told a press conference after rushing back to the city, cutting short an official trip to Ghana.

At least six separate wildfires were burning in Los Angeles County Thursday morning. Three of them were listed as 0% controlled, including the Palisades fire in the west, the Eaton Fire in the east and the smaller Sunset Fire in the Hollywood Hills. **MORE P8**

Tuhin Pandey joins as Revenue Secy

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 9: Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey Thursday took charge as Revenue Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet Wednesday appointed Pandey, who was holding the charge of the Secretary of Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), as the Revenue Secretary. The order also stated that Pandey will continue to be designated as the Finance Secretary.

In September last year, Pandey, a 1987-batch IAS officer from Odisha cadre, was appointed the Finance Secretary.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Try migrating to Greenland. If you're lucky, you might become an American citizen soon!

2.8km drilled to pull 1.2mn-yr-old ice core from Antarctic

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chicago, Jan 9: An international team of scientists announced Thursday they've successfully drilled one of the oldest ice cores yet, penetrating nearly 2 miles (2.8 kilometres) to Antarctic bedrock to reach ice they say is at least 1.2 million years old.

Analysis of the ancient ice is expected to show how Earth's atmosphere and climate have evolved. That should provide insight into how Ice Age cycles have changed, and may help in understanding how atmospheric carbon changed climate, they said.

"Thanks to the ice core, we will understand what has changed in terms of greenhouse gases, chemicals and dusts in the atmosphere," said Carlo Barbante, an Italian glaciologist and coordinator of Beyond EPICA (European Project for

Ice Coring in Antarctica), the project to obtain the core. Barbante also directs the Polar Science Institute at Italy's National Research Council.

The same team previously drilled a core about 800,000 years old. The latest drilling went 2.8 kilometres deep, with a team of 16 scientists and support personnel drilling each summer over four years in average temperatures of about minus 35 degrees Celsius.

Italian researcher Federico Scotto was among the glaciologists and technicians who completed the drilling at the beginning of January at a location called Little Dome C, near Concordia Research Station.

"It was a great moment for us when we reached the bedrock," Scotto said. Isotope analysis gave the ice's age as at least 1.2 million years old, he said. Both Barbante and Scotto said



that thanks to the analysis of the ice core of the previous EPICA campaign they have assessed that concentrations of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, even during the warmest periods of the last 800,000 years, have never exceeded the levels

seen since the Industrial Revolution began.

"Today, we're seeing carbon dioxide levels that are 50 per cent above the highest levels we've had over the last 800,000 years," Barbante said.

The European Union funded Beyond EPICA with support

from nations across the continent. Italy is coordinating the project.

The announcement was exciting to Richard Alley, a climate scientist at Penn State who was not involved with the project and who was recently awarded the National Medal of Science for his career studying ice sheets.

Alley said advancements in studying ice cores are important because they help scientists better understand the climate conditions of the past and inform their understanding of humans' contributions to climate change in the present. He added that reaching the bedrock holds added promise because scientists may learn more about Earth's history not directly related to the ice record itself.

"This is truly, truly, amazingly fantastic," Alley said.

₹73K-cr rly projects in Odisha: Vaishnaw

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Union Minister for Railways, Electronics and Information Technology and Broadcasting, Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday announced that railway projects worth a total of ₹73,000 crore are currently under implementation across Odisha.

Vaishnaw made the announcement during a discussion with Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on the sidelines of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas event.

The Minister further revealed that additional major initiatives related to these projects would be unveiled at the upcoming Utkarsh Odisha Meet.

Vaishnaw emphasised the ongoing efforts to make Odisha a major hub for the IT industry. Highlighting sectors such as semiconductors, electronics,

UNION MINISTER URGES THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE SUITABLE LAND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF KEY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AIMED AT BOOSTING IT INDUSTRY

information technology (IT), Internet of Things (IoT), and machine learning, he noted that Odisha offers significant opportunities for the youth in these fields.

He also spoke about the establishment of a NILET University campus in the state, a move he described as crucial for creating world-class educational facilities. "Once the necessary land is made available, we aim to create a world-class university to empower the youth of Odisha," said Vaishnaw.

The Union Minister urged

the Odisha government to allocate suitable land near Bhubaneswar for the development of key infrastructure projects aimed at boosting Odisha's IT industry.

Vaishnaw also stressed the importance of improving connectivity in the state, particularly to support the tourism sector. He announced plans to introduce enhanced train services, including a special train for the Mahakumbh, which will cater to increased tourism demand.

In line with the Prime Minister's vision for a sustainable and self-sufficient energy future, Vaishnaw highlighted Indian Railways' commitment to transitioning to renewable energy sources. He also shared the railways' plans to innovate in the renewable energy sector, aiming to promote energy efficiency and contribute to India's energy self-sufficiency.

Prez to attend closing session of PBD today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: President Droupadi Murmu arrived here Thursday evening on a two-day visit to Odisha during which she will participate in the closing ceremony of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention.

Murmu landed at Biju Patnaik International Airport around 5:35 pm aboard a special Indian Air Force aircraft. She was received by Governor



Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi,

and other dignitaries.

"I welcomed Her Excellency the President Droupadi Murmu at the Bhubaneswar airport. Her presence will further enhance the quality of the 18th Overseas Indian Programme," Majhi posted on X.

Upon her arrival, the President's cavalcade moved slowly towards Raj Bhavan amidst tight security. Enthusiastic crowds lined both sides of the streets to greet her, with cultural troupes and folk artistes

performing along the route.

A press release from Rashtrapati Bhavan stated that President Murmu will attend the valedictory session of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention Friday at Janata Maidan here. During the event, she will confer the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards to 27 distinguished members of the diaspora and deliver a speech between 3 pm and 4:30 pm. She will also tour exhibitions being held at the venue.

Broad daylight murder: Couple, 3 associates held

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: The Commissionerate Police Thursday arrested five individuals, including a couple, in connection with the brutal murder of 35-year-old Sahadev Nayak, which took place Wednesday in broad daylight near Rasulgarh Road Over-Bridge (RoB).

The arrested include Laxmidhar Nayak (29), his wife Lipika Nayak (32), and their associates Rocky Nayak (24), Laxmi Nayak (25), and Rakesh Nayak (27). Several other accomplices involved in plotting the murder are still on the run, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Pinak Mishra, while adding that two motorcycles, four smart-

phones, two bags containing sharp weapons, and the weapons themselves from the suspects.

Mishra said Sahadev Nayak, a supervisor with the BMC Sanitation Workers' Association, had removed the couple from their positions after noticing irregularities in their work. A few days later, Lipika was arrested on a NDPS case.

He said, "Upon her release on bail January 5, the couple misconstrued that Sahadev, a police volunteer, had tipped-off the authorities for Lipika's arrest. Enraged, the couple then plotted Sahadev's murder. Rakesh and Laxmi joined hands with the couple, since the former had disputes with Sahadev in the past.

Book on Indian coolies in Fiji released at PBD

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Eminent author and academician Dr Rekha Chaturvedi released her book "Fiji Mein Bhartiyaon Ka Itihas Tatha Unka Jeevan (1879-1947)" (The Life and History of Indians in Fiji (1879-1947)) during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) celebrations in Bhubaneswar.

The book delves into the harsh realities and struggles faced by Indian indentured labourers, referred to as "coolies", who were sent to Fiji under British rule. Highlighting their arduous lives and sacrifices, Dr Rekha emphasised the importance of recognising and preserving their stories for future generations.



"Indentured labor is one of the darkest chapters of British colonialism, impacting Indian communities in South Africa, Mauritius, Trinidad, Guyana, and Fiji," said the author. The book seeks to shed light on the plight of these labourers, who were subjected to inhumane conditions while performing grueling tasks in foreign lands.

The book, published by Sasta Sahitya Mandal, is a poignant narrative of the lives of Indian labourers in Fiji, capturing their struggles and resilience. It is inspired by the works of the author's grandfather, Banarasi Das Chaturvedi, who wrote extensively on the subject, including "Fiji Mein Mere 21 Varsh" (My 21 Years in Fiji), based

on the experiences of Totaram Sanadhya, an indentured labourer.

The Girmitya system, named after the indenture agreement or "girmity", subjected labourers to harsh working conditions and exploitative practices. This system persisted in Fiji until its formal abolition in 1920.

Dr Rekha's book builds upon her grandfather's advocacy, presenting a comprehensive account of the trials and resilience of Indian diaspora communities in Fiji.

The release of the book on PBD underscores its significance to the Indian diaspora. The 18th PBD convention, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi January 9, celebrates the contributions of overseas Indians and their enduring ties with their homeland. Dr. Rekha's work serves as a tribute to the resilience of the Girmitya community and their indomitable spirit.

Despite personal and professional commitments, Dr Rekha dedicated years to researching and documenting the history of Indian indentured labourers. Her work reflects her deep connection to her heritage and her family's longstanding advocacy for the Girmitya cause.

This historic publication not only highlights a forgotten chapter of history but also aims to inspire a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by the Indian diaspora under colonial rule.

Jal Marg se Navnirman; Desh ki Nayi Udan

2nd Meeting of INLAND WATERWAYS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (IWDC)

Launch/Announcement of Projects costing more than **Rs. 1400 Cr.**

Our Government has given special impetus to the development of Inland Waterways which has eased traffic pressure on roads, helped cut logistic costs and furthered ease of doing business.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Inauguration of

- Quick Pontoon Opening Mechanism at two locations

Launch of

- Central Database Portal for Registration of Vessel/Crew- 'Digital India' National River Traffic and Navigation System Guidelines

Announcement of

| State | Projects |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Andhra Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Setting up of 6 floating steel jetties on River GodavariDetailed Project Report of NW-4 for its developmentFeasibility of River Penna (NW-79) |
| Assam | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Refurbishment of Heritage Building, DibrugarhDevelopment of Tourist Terminal at 4 locationsRegional Centre of Excellence (RCoE), DibrugarhLink Road between Pandu Ship Repair Facility to Pandu PortProcurement of 2 Steel pontoons for NW-16 terminalsProcurement of 12 Vessels for NW-2 and NW-16One Survey Vessel for Barak River (NW-16) |
| Bihar | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Quick Pontoon Opening Mechanism (QPOM) at 4 locations |
| Chhattisgarh | <ul style="list-style-type: none">River cruise tourism facilities at Bhadrakali on NW-4 |
| Delhi | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 jetties on River Yamuna (NW-110) for cruise tourism |
| Goa | <ul style="list-style-type: none">10 community jetties in Goa on River Mandovi (NW-68), Cumberjua Canal (NW-27) and River Zuari (NW-111)1 jetty on River Sal (NW-88) and 2 jetties on River Chapora (NW-25)Fairway maintenance in National Waterways of GoaSetting up of VTMS in National Waterways of Goa |
| Gujarat | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 jetties for cruise tourism on River Narmada (NW-73)Fairway maintenance & setting up of river cruise jetties in River Tapi at Surat Castle and Dumas Beach |
| Himachal Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Feasibility study for operationalisation of River Sutlej (NW-98) |
| Jammu & Kashmir | <ul style="list-style-type: none">10 jetties on River Chenab (NW-26), River Jhelum (NW-49) and River Ravi (NW-84) for tourism/transportationFairway development and navigation aids on River Jhelum |
| Karnataka | <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 jetty on River Kabini (NW-51) and 2 jetties on River Sharavati (NW-90)4 jetties on River Gurupura (NW-43) and River Netravati (NW-74)River Cruise at Almatti Dam (River Krishna)Operationalisation of NW-105 and NW-76Navigation aids and terminal on River Kali (NW-52) |
| Kerala | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Widening of service road connecting to IWT Maradu terminalMaintenance of fairway and bank protection at 4 location in NW-3 |
| Ladakh | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 jetties on River Indus (NW-46) and Green Vessels for cruise tourism |
| Maharashtra | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Fairway maintenance in the Dabhol Creek-Vashishti River (NW-28)Induction of Navigational Aids in Dabhol Creek-Vashishti River (NW-28) and Kalyan-Thane - Vasai Creek-Ulhas River Mumbai Waterway (NW-53).Opening of Regional Office at Mumbai |
| Mizoram | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Preparation of DPR for development of IWT in River Tlawng & ChhimitupuiConstruction of 2 jetties and 2 passenger boats on River Khawthlangtupui - Tuichawng in Lunglei District |
| Nagaland | <ul style="list-style-type: none">DPR for development of IWT in Doyang LakeDPR for Promotion of Water Sports & Tourism at Nounne and Shilloi Lake |
| Odisha | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2 floating jetties for Musadia-Bahakuda ferry service on River Mahanadi (NW-64) and 1 floating jetty on River Baitarni (NW-14).Construction of fixed jetty on behalf of IFFCO on River Mahanadi (NW-64)Fairway maintenance and navigational aids of River Mahanadi (NW-64)Updation of DPR for development of NW-5 |
| Punjab | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Feasibility of River Beas (NW-17) and River Sutlej (NW-98) for navigation |
| Rajasthan | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mathematical modelling of River Jawai-Luni-Rann of Kutch (NW-48) for navigation |
| Tamil Nadu | <ul style="list-style-type: none">8 jetties & 2 vessels for river cruise planned in Buckingham Canal (constituent of NW-4), River Bhavani (NW-20) and River Pazhyar (NW-77). |
| Telangana | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Setting up of 3 floating jetties on River Krishna (NW-4) |
| Uttar Pradesh | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prayagraj - 6 jetties and 5 vessels for Mahakumbh8 jetties in Mathura, 2 jetties and 1 catamaran in AyodhyaShip Repair Facility at GhazipurQPOM at 4 locationsDevelopment of IWT tourism circuit in Agra |

Common for NWs - 1, 2 and 16

- 8 Amphibian Dredgers
- 4 Cutter Suction Dredgers with ancillary units

Presided by

Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma | Chief Minister, Assam

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal | Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India

In the August Presence of

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Shri Shantanu Thakur Hon'ble Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India | Shri B.C. Janardhan Reddy Hon'ble Minister of Roads & Buildings, Infrastructure and Investment, Government of Andhra Pradesh | Shri Ojing Tasing Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Cooperation & Transport, Government of Arunachal Pradesh | Shri Jogen Mohan Hon'ble Minister of Transport, Government of Assam | Shri Aleixo Sequeira Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Government of Goa |
| Shri Satish Sharma Hon'ble Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and ARI & Trainings Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir | Shri Khashim Vashum Hon'ble Minister of Transport, Government of Manipur | Mr Vanlalhana Hon'ble Minister of Transport, Government of Mizoram | Shri Dayashankar Singh Hon'ble Minister of State (IC) Transport, Government of Uttar Pradesh | |

Viksit JALMARG, Viksit BHARAT | Friday, 10th January, 2025 | Kaziranga, Assam



The Genome India Project is an important milestone in the biotechnology revolution in India
NARENDRA MODI | PRIME MINISTER

AYODHYA GEARS UP FOR RAM LALLA CONSECRATION ANNIV

Preparations are in full swing to celebrate the first anniversary of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ram temple here this weekend



'Climate change puts India's rice, wheat output at risk'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: India's rice and wheat output is projected to dip by 6-10 per cent due to climate change, impacting access to affordable food for millions, senior officials have said.

Another effect of climate change is that sea water is becoming warmer along the coast forcing fish to move away to cooler water in deep sea, which has also hit the fishing community, the officials said. India's wheat production had touched 113.29 million tonnes in the 2023-24 crop year, which was about 14 per cent of the global output, while rice harvests topped 137 million tonnes. Rice and wheat form staple diet for the country's 1.4 billion population, 80 per cent of which relies on subsidised food grains



supplied through various government schemes.

"Climate change will reduce the yields of both wheat and rice by 6 to 10 per cent, significantly impacting farmers and food security of the country," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, the Director General of the India Meteorological Department

(IMD), told PTI.

He said global warming was also reducing the frequency and strength of Western Disturbances, which are weather systems emerging from the Mediterranean region that bring winter rain and snow to northwest India. This could lead to severe water shortages

for billions of people living in the Himalayas and the plains below in the near future, M Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, said during an interaction with PTI along with Mohapatra.

According to the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA), wheat yield in India is projected to decline by 6-25 per cent by 2100. Irrigated rice yields are expected to reduce by 7 per cent by 2050 and 10 per cent by 2080.

Around half of the population in India depends on agriculture. Over 80 per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers, having land less than 2 hectares, government data shows. Ravichandran said rising ocean temperatures are also reducing fish catches near the coast.

MAHAKUMBH 2025

Unbreachable security encircles Prayagraj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 9: In preparation for the upcoming Mahakumbh and to ensure the safety of devotees, a robust and impenetrable security 'Chakravyuh' has been established around Prayagraj under the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Seven key routes connecting Prayagraj and adjoining districts have been fortified with 102 checkpoints for thoroughly screening vehicles and individuals.

This extensive security deployment involves 1,026 personnel, including 71 inspectors, 234 sub-inspectors, 645 constables/head constables, 76 women constables, 113 Home Guards/PRD jawans, and three PAC sections. Additionally, five Vajra



vehicles, 10 drones, and four anti-sabotage teams are conducting round-the-clock surveillance to ensure seamless security operations.

Uttar Pradesh Police has set up 10 state-of-the-art digital 'Khoya- Paya Kendras' across the Maha Kumbh Mela area to ensure the safety and convenience of millions of devotees.

Equipped with modern facilities, these centres fea-

ture waiting rooms, medical rooms, and refreshment area for women and children to provide immediate assistance to the devotees, officials said.

Each centre is fitted with 55-inch LED screens connected to a public address system, which will display live updates about lost and found persons and items. The centres will also provide essential information on ghat arrangements and routes related to Mahakumbh.

CBI books Karti Chidambaram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: The CBI has registered a fresh case of corruption against former finance minister P Chidambaram's son and Congress MP, Karti Chidambaram, for allegedly giving relief to alcoholic beverage company Diageo Scotland over a ban on the duty-free sale of its whisky, officials said Thursday.

The case pertains to an alleged suspicious payment made to Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt. Ltd., "an entity controlled" by Karti P Chidambaram and his close aide S Bhaskararaman by Diageo Scotland and Sequoia Capitals, the CBI FIR said. "Enquiry revealed that out of various proposals of FIPB enquired into, it was found that Diageo Scotland and Sequoia Capitals have suspiciously transferred funds to Advantage Strategic Consulting Pvt. Ltd., an entity controlled by Sh.

Karti P Chidambaram and his close aide S Bhaskararaman," it said. The agency alleged that its enquiry has found that Diageo Scotland, UK used to import duty-free Johnnie Walker whisky.

No immediate reaction was available from the suspects named in the FIR. In April 2005, the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC), which had a monopoly over the sale of imported duty-free liquor in India, put an embargo on the sale of the Diageo Group's duty-free products in India, which resulted in a huge loss to Diageo Scotland as 70 per cent of its business in India pertained to the sale of Johnnie Walker whisky, the agency alleged. The CBI FIR alleged that Diageo Scotland approached Karti Chidambaram, seeking help in lifting the ban and made payments of USD 15,000 to Advantage Strategic Consulting, which took it in the guise of "consultancy fee".



TIRUPATI STAMPEDE

CM Naidu announces judicial investigation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Jan 9: A day after six persons died in the Tirupati stampede, the Andhra Pradesh government Thursday announced a judicial inquiry into the incident that seems to have been the result of a policeman's innocuous act of opening the gate with the intention of aiding

a sick woman. People were waiting to receive tokens for a holy event at the famous Lord Venkateswara Swamy shrine on Tirumala hills for January 10 when tragedy struck.

Following complaints by revenue officials, two FIRs were registered in connection with the stampede which has also left dozens injured.

SPADEX

ISRO says it arrested drift between satellites

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



Bangalore, Jan 9: ISRO Thursday said it has arrested the drift between satellites during its ambitious Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) and put the spacecrafts in a slow drift course to move closer to each other.

According to the space agency, the experiment is expected to reach initialisation condition Friday. "SpaDeX Docking Update: The drift has been arrested and spacecrafts put in a slow drift course to move closer to each other.

By tomorrow, it is expected to reach initialisation conditions," ISRO said in a statement. The ISRO had twice cancelled the SpaDeX mission, once January 7

and then January 9. Citing the reason behind postponement of the exercise Thursday, the ISRO said while making a manoeuvre to reach 225 m between satellites, the drift was found to be more than expected, post non-visibility period.

The Space Docking Experiment (SPADEX) is a pivotal project, which is designed to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking using two small satellites, the space agency said. "SpaDeX will serve as a milestone in advancing India's capabilities in space docking, a critical technology for future space missions including satellite servicing, space station operations, and interplanetary missions," ISRO said in an explainer.

This technology is essential for India's space ambitions such as Indian on Moon, sample return from the Moon, the building and operation of Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), etc.

INTENT and INTELLECT of Yuva Shakti Strengthening the vision of VIKSIT BHARAT

Young Leaders will share their vision in front of PM Modi

on 12th January | 10 AM Onwards

10 Themes for Viksit Bharat : Youth Leaders to engage in transformative discussions shaping the Nation's future

National & Global Icons Mentorship : Youth Leaders will be mentored by Global and National Icons.

Colours of Viksit Bharat : A spectacular cultural programme showcasing the diversity and aspirations of India

Viksit Bharat Exhibition : Showcase of innovative ideas and achievements driving India's progress.

VIKSIT BHARAT
Young Leaders Dialogue
NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL 2025
10-12 January, 2025
Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

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Kangaloo hails India's contribution to world

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo Thursday said India has made some of the "greatest contributions" to the world civilisation in various fields such as mathematics, medicine and navigation.

Addressing the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, 2025 convention virtually as the chief guest, Kangaloo said, "India's contributions to the world's development are remarkable. The world's first university was established in Takshashila in 700 BC."

Stating that Ayurveda is widely acknowledged as an earlier school of medicine, she said that the art of navigation was born in Sindhu river about 6,000 years ago.

"Algebra, trigonometry and calculus were also first developed in India," she said.

This apart, Kangaloo also noted that India was the first country of civilisation which used the symbol zero (0) in arithmetic operations. The



game of chess is also believed to have originated in eastern India while the decimal system is widely acknowledged to have been developed in India.

"And India's very own Shushruta is widely acknowledged to be the father of surgery," she said.

India is one of the countries that established diplomatic relations with Trinidad and Tobago following the country's independence from the United Kingdom in 1962, Kangaloo said.

"Our country's ties with India, however, long precedes that. Our relationship goes back to 1845 when the first ship carrying 225 Indians reached the shores of Trinidad and Tobago, then a British colony," she said.

Nearly 72 unbroken years thereafter, more than 1,43,000 Indians came from cities and states such as Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and many others, reshaping the social, demographic, economic and cultural landscape of Trin-

idad and Tobago forever, the Trinidad and Tobago President said.

Lauding India's efforts in holding the PBD, she said that over the last two decades, this convention has been collaborating between India and its diaspora.

Kangaloo thanked India for conferring the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA) on her. The award will be handed over by President Murmu Friday.

"In conferring the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (award), the government and the people of India give powerful expression to the commitment to strengthen the ties between India and all of its children throughout the world," she said.

The President said that she was told that cricketer Brian Lara is loved in India and so also Sachin Tendulkar in Trinidad and Tobago.

"Our trade relation is robust. We enjoy our rich cultural cooperation with India and received Covid-19 vaccines from India," she said.

Participate in state's growth trajectory: CM

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Asserting that Odisha is a land of limitless opportunities, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Thursday called upon the Indian diaspora to participate in the state's growth journey.

Speaking at the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) inaugural function, Majhi said, "Odisha is not just about its glorious past and natural beauty; it is a land of limitless opportunities for the future."

Highlighting Odisha's investor-friendly environment, the CM said the state now stands as one of the most welcoming destinations for investments in India.

"With rich mineral resources driving key industries, along with rapidly growing IT, agro-processing, and renewable energy sectors, Odisha is charting a robust development path," he said.

Majhi emphasised Odisha's achievements in climate-resilient agriculture and youth



skill development, saying, "The state has carved a niche for itself in these areas. Our world-class sports infrastructure is a testament to our commitment to excellence."

The Chief Minister also said the state is building on its maritime legacy by developing ports and shipping corridors to connect with South-East Asia, enabling faster trade and reducing logistics costs for global businesses.

"With world-class infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, and a young skilled workforce, Odisha is the perfect destination, for businesses and entrepreneurs," Majhi said, adding that the state is at the centre of Purvodaya, the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Proud of diaspora's achievements: EAM

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Thursday said the diaspora has become more important with each passing year as India strives to build a "global workforce".

Addressing the Indian diaspora at the PBD convention here, Jaishankar said in times of difficulty abroad, they can be confident that the Narendra Modi government "has got your back". "We are proud of the achievements of our Indian diaspora," he said.

"In a globalised era, the diaspora has become more important with each passing year, whether it is technology, best practices or resources, be it tourism, trade or investment, the two-way flow is invaluable as we strive to build a global workforce," Jaishankar said.

The External Affairs minister said the role of the diaspora is immense as they act as the bridge between India and the countries where they live.

He said the people-centric changes that the Modi government is promoting are also benefiting the diaspora.

India's hydrogen engine most powerful: Vaishnaw

Bhubaneswar:

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday said that the hydrogen fuel-run train engine developed by Indian Railways has the maximum horsepower in the world. Vaishnaw, who is also the Union Minister in charge of Information and Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, said this while speaking at a plenary session titled 'Green Connections: Diaspora's Contribution to Sustainable Development' of the PBD convention here. Stating that only four countries make such train engines, Vaishnaw said, "They produce somewhere between 500 to 600 hp while the engine produced by Indian Railways using indigenous technology has an output of 1,200 hp, the highest so far in this category." He said the first such train is expected to make a trial run in Haryana soon on the Jind-Sonapat route. While the engine manufacturing has been completed, system integration of the same is currently underway, the Union minister added.



A performance by Grammy-winning musician Ricky Kej and his troupe



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with Union Ministers S Jaishankar, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Dharmendra Pradhan, Odisha Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Deputy CMs Pravati Parida and KV Singh Deo, virtually flags off Pravasi Bharatiya Express – a special tourist train for Indian diaspora at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar Thursday

Min: Stories of Indian immigrants inspiring

Bhubaneswar:

Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment Sushri Shobha Karandlaje Thursday said that the world is today realising that the role of Indians in every corner of the globe has given a new dimension to the social, economic and cultural development of that place. The minister said this while attending a plenary session on 'Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Stories of Migrant Skills', held on the occasion of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Karandlaje said, "Stories of Indian immigrants' abilities have inspired us. By promoting our yoga, ayurveda, handicrafts, culture, Make in India products, they have contributed to the inclusive development and ensured their participation in a developed India with their own skills." "According to the World Migration Report 2024, Indian immigrants are the largest foreign exchange earners in the world. This is a strong proof of their ability," said former Minister of State, External Affairs, V Muraleedharan.



A mélange of various dance forms



NRIs from Oman at 18th PBD convention



An SME stall at an expo



NRIs at Netaji Birthplace Museum in Cuttack



Overseas citizens in euphoric mood



Guests and delegates in all ears to PM's speech

Guests from abroad lap up traditional Odia dishes

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Guests from abroad enjoyed the signature Odia dishes - from pulses and curries to sweetmeats - that were served to them at the PBD venue.

They lapped up traditional delicacies such as 'Dalma' (mix-pulse with vegetables), 'saga muga' (leaf-moong dal), chicken curry and 'chhenapoda' (baked cheese sweet).

Though North Indian and continental food were also arranged for the guests, the NRIs expressed happiness after tasting the lip-smacking Odia platter.

"For the first time, I tasted Odia dishes saga muga, dalma, rasgulla and chaula khiri.



Those were not spicy and the taste was amazing," said KV Rathee, an NRI from Canada.

Praising the Odia foods and hospitality the state has offered, NRI Raman Tanga said the sweet dishes are

mouth-watering. The dalma was also good, he shared.

Falguni Patel, who came from Uganda, said, "I have tasted Odia sweet dishes, and they were quite good. The state showcased the traditional cuisine at the right platform. The Odia food deserves promotion in a bigger way."

A private hotel has prepared dishes for the guests at the venue apart from special arrangements for VVIPs like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

Mridul Mandal, chief chef of the hotel, said apart from some North Indian and continental food items, "Odia dishes like 'pariba ghanta' (vegetable mix), 'saga muga', 'dalma', 'kanika' (sweet) Rice for vegetarians and 'Kukuda Aloo Jhola' and 'Machha Besara' were served to non-vegetarians in the lunch Thursday."

dishes, delightful 'chaula khiri' and 'pahala rasgulla' (sugar-free) were served to the NRIs as dessert, he said.

"We have prepared food items for about 10,000 people (for both lunch and dinner) on the first two days of the PBD. About 1,500 chefs have been engaged in the job," Mandal said.

The chef said, for the first time, they are serving different kinds of Odia dishes on such a big platform. The dishes were prepared in a very traditional manner in the same way Odia people prepare those in their homes, he said.

Mandal said they have served the signature Odia sweet dish 'Chhenapoda' to Prime Minister Modi.

Global citizens laud culture of Odisha

AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 9: Hundreds of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from across the world, who gathered at Janata Maidan here to take part in 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention Thursday, expressed their appreciation for the warm welcome and preparations made for the event, which is being celebrated as a grand festival in Odisha. According to them, the event provides an excellent opportunity for NRIs to experience the eastern state's vibrant culture and heritage.

Koki Veber, an NRI who has lived in Slovenia for 50 years, expressed her happiness about attending the event. Koki runs a store called 'Namaste', which promotes Indian handicrafts.

She praised Odisha as a hidden gem of India and described it as a beautiful state. "This is my first visit to Odisha and I am amazed by its charm. It truly is a jewel of India," she added.

Punit Manchanda, an NRI from Canada, also expressed his pride in being invited by the ministry of external affairs to the event. "It's my first visit to Odisha, and I feel a special connection as my brother completed his engineering from Rourkela. I'm impressed by the state's hospitality, culture and delicious food," he said.

national



Indigenously developed technology provides a unique chance to create derivative technologies for various applications

RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN CLOSED FOR PUBLIC

The Rashtrapati Bhavan (Circuit-1) will remain closed for the general public from January 21 to 29 due to the upcoming Republic Day Parade and Beating Retreat ceremony...



of the day quote

I consider it a great fortune to be inaugurating it today as the mukhyasevak of the state

We have been trying to get the national fair status for the Gangesagar Mela in vain for the last 10 years

The old Langthabal palace will be developed with an estimated cost of Rs 25 crore. A committee consisting of teachers from universities will be constituted (for guiding the restoration work)

AAP, BJP spar over Jat quota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: As assembly elections draw closer in Delhi, AAP convenor and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal Thursday accused the BJP-led Central government of renegeing on its promise to provide reservation to the Jat community in the national capital.



Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal, who is contesting from New Delhi seat, said he wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, demanding the inclusion of Delhi's Jat community in the Central OBC list.

Want to work with Delhi to resolve J&K problems, says Farooq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jammu, Jan 9: The National Conference government headed by Omar Abdullah would not "fight" the Centre but work with it to resolve the problems faced by Jammu and Kashmir, party president Farooq Abdullah asserted here Thursday.



His remarks came in the backdrop of party Lok Sabha MP Aga Rullah's comments during a TV interview that Omar Abdullah should not distance himself from the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and should not be seen by the people as a "Delhi representative".

ACB grills KTR for 7 hrs in Formula E-race Case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

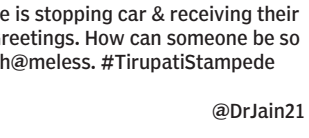
Hyderabad, Jan 9: BRS leader K T Rama Rao, who was questioned by the Anti-Corruption Bureau Thursday in the Formula-E race case, said he answered all the agency's queries and is prepared to appear again if required...

Responding to Rama Rao's criticism against the CM and state government, Congress MLC Balmour Venkat said the BRS leader himself had accepted a procedural lapse in the transfer of funds to race organisers which is being probed.

He stated that he had cooperated fully with the agency officials. "Whatever questions the ACB asked me, I responded in detail to the best of my understanding. I told them that I would appear whenever they call me," said Rama Rao...

POST OF THE DAY

Pawan Kalyan is in Tirupati, where 6 people lost lives due to Stampede and here his followers chanting 'Jai Janasena' & he is stopping car & receiving their Greetings. How can someone be so Sh@meless. #TirupatiStampede



@DrJain21

SHORT TAKES

Three LeT terror associates held

Srinagar: Security forces have arrested three Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terror associates in the Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said Thursday. A police spokesman said the trio were arrested by a joint police, army and CRPF team while investigating an FIR registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in Qaimoh police station in the district.

Four K'taka pilgrims killed in road mishap

Ranipet (Tamil Nadu): At least four pilgrims from Karnataka were killed when the bus they were travelling in was involved in an accident with a vegetable-laden truck and another heavy vehicle here Thursday, police sources said. The victims, mostly hailing from Kolar, were returning home in a KSRTC bus after visiting a temple near Chennai.

Bus catches fire in Navi Mumbai

Thane: Passengers onboard a civic transport service bus had a narrow escape when it caught fire in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township Thursday morning, police said. All the 22 passengers were evacuated safely and no one was injured, they said. The incident led to a traffic jam in the area for some time. The bus belonging to the Navi Mumbai Municipal Transport (NMMT) caught fire at Runwal Chowk in Manpada limits on Kalyan-Shiphata Road at around 10.30 am, the police said.

Senior citizen dies in tree crash

Mumbai: A 60-year-old woman died and another was injured when a tree from a private garden fell on them in Mumbai's Ghatkopar area Thursday evening, civic officials said. The incident occurred near a hotel at around 6 pm when the two were walking on the road, they said.

jobs and college admissions," the AAP supremo said.

Central agencies like the MCD, DDA, and CPWD operate extensively in Delhi, and including Jats in the OBC list would open up significant opportunities for them, Kejriwal said, as he vowed to continue the fight until the community's demands are met.

Reacting to the allegations, BJP leader Verma claimed that as Kejriwal's political ground is slipping, the AAP leader has started dividing Delhi on caste lines. Kejriwal never remembered the Jat community in the past 11 years, he said.

"Arvind Kejriwal, who once spoke of secularism, is now dividing Delhi on caste lines. If anyone has given constitutional recognition to the National OBC Commission, it is PM Modi. For Jats or any caste to be included in the OBC list, the state government must first ap-

prove the proposal and send it to the OBC Commission.

"Kejriwal's government held special sessions but used them only to criticise the Centre and the LG, never passing the OBC inclusion for Jats," he stated.

Verma criticised Kejriwal for not convening a session despite two letters from Kailash Gahlot regarding OBC status for Jats.

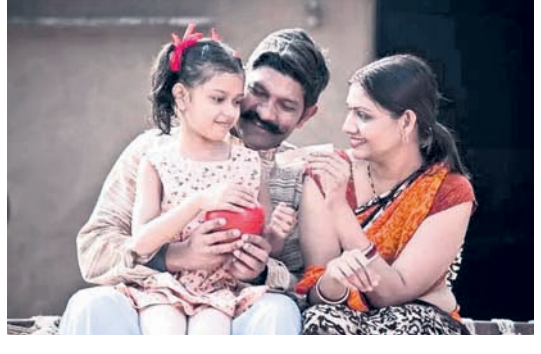
He credited BJP-led governments in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and at the Centre with securing Jat reservations in the past.

"Rural Delhi lacks new colleges, schools, hospitals, flyovers, and roads, but with elections here, Kejriwal remembers the Jats. It pains me that he accuses me of anti-nationalism for helping women through the 'Ladli' scheme," Verma added.

The 70-member Delhi Assembly will go to polls February 5. The results will be out February 8.

'Parents legally obligated to provide edu support to girl'

The remarks of a bench comprising Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan came in a matrimonial dispute in which the daughter of the estranged couple, who was studying in Ireland, refused to accept Rs 43 lakh given by her father towards her studies as a part of the total alimony being paid to her mother



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: Daughter has an indefeasible, legally enforceable and legitimate right to secure educational expenses from her parents, who can be compelled to provide necessary funds within their means, the Supreme Court recently said.

for which the parents would be compelled to provide necessary funds within the limit of their financial resources," said the bench's January 2 order.

The daughter of the parties, it said, to maintain her own dignity had declined to retain the amount and asked him to take the money back but he refused. The daughter was legally entitled to the amount, the court said.

The father was said to have spent the money without any compelling reasons, indicating he was financially sound to provide her with the financial assistance towards her academic pursuits.

"Respondent number 2 (daughter) has, thus, got a right to retain that amount. She need not, therefore, return that amount either to the appellant (mother) or to respondent number 1 (father), and may suitably appropriate it as she may deem fit," said the court.

The bench referred to the settlement agreement entered into by the estranged couple November 28, 2024 which was also signed by the daughter. The court said the husband had agreed to pay a total sum of Rs 73 lakh to his estranged wife and daughter, of which Rs 43 lakh was meant for his daughter's academic goals, and the rest for his wife.

It observed since the wife had received her Rs 30 lakh share, and the parties were admittedly living separately for the last 26 years, the bench saw no reason to not grant of a decree of divorce by mutual consent.

"Consequently, we invoke our powers under Article 142 of the Constitution and dissolve the marriage of the parties by granting a decree of divorce by mutual consent," it held.

The court further directed as a result of the settlement agreement, the parties should not pursue any court case against each other, and if there was a pending case before any forum, it should be disposed of in terms of the agreement.

"The parties shall have no claim against each other in future and shall abide by the terms and conditions of the settlement agreement, which shall form part of this order," it said.

AN INVESTOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE. Do join us to learn more about Mutual Funds. Date and Venue: Friday, 10th January 2025; 3:00 p.m. onwards.

HDFC MUTUAL FUNDS. An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative. Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds.

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EAST COAST RAILWAY PUBLIC NOTICE. The under-mentioned Manned Level Crossing Gate of Khurda Road Division has been proposed for closure in lieu of construction of Limited Height Subway (LHS) and will be commissioned soon for public. Hence, the use of the under-mentioned Manned Level Crossing Gate for public will be prohibited after commissioning of Limited Height Subway (LHS) with immediate effect.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR. Phone- 0680-2404096, E-Mail: eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in. Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 13/SERWD-II/2024-25

'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO.13/2024-25. 1 Name of work : Building work. 2 Total No. of work : 1(One) work. 3 Estimated cost : Rs.70.18 lakhs. 4 Period of completion : 09 (Nine) calendar months. 5 Class of contractors : 'B' class only.



The government will soon launch a new credit guarantee scheme for the MSME sector covering loans up to ₹100 crore

8 NEW BENZ MODELS TO HIT ROADS

Luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India plans to roll out 8 new models, including battery electric vehicles, this year as it looks to sustain sales momentum having posted record sales in 2024.



Business

of the day quote

At Jupiter, we are not just building capacity, we are redefining what it means to be a leader in solar manufacturing

By fostering innovation and empowering fintech startups, we aim to amplify impactful solutions that not only enhance women's financial inclusion but also drive their economic empowerment

As the industry continues to expand, the need for skilled and semi-skilled workers is growing, making hiring more competitive. Employers are increasingly looking for talent that can adapt to a fast-paced, technology-driven environment

Broad-based selloff: Benchmarks bleed

Markets tumble nearly 1%; Sensex sinks below 78k



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SIP inflows touch peak

Systematic investment plans cross ₹26K-cr mark for 1st time in Dec

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 9: Monthly systematic investment plans (SIPs) surpassed the ₹26,000 crore mark for the first time in the month of December, showcasing that small investors continue to rely on mutual funds for long-term investments.

The SIP contribution during the last month stood at ₹26,459 crore compared to 25,320 crore in November.

As per earlier reports, there was a massive 233 per cent growth (year-on-year) in overall net inflows in SIPs in India last year, as the Indian economy remains resilient amid rough geo-political conditions.

According to Ashwini Kumar from credit ratings agency ICRA Analytics, with the structural growth story of the Indian economy remaining intact and India a bright spot in the global



Investor confidence on mutual funds are an efficient tool for investments continue to remain strong

MANISH MEHTA | NATIONAL HEAD FOR SALES, MARKETING AND DIGITAL BUSINESS, KOTAK MAHINDRA AMC

Massive 233% YoY growth in overall net inflows in SIPs last year MF folio surged to 22.50cr in Dec, from 22.02cr in last month

economy, the domestic mutual fund industry is expected to witness multi-fold growth in the coming years.

The surge in SIP comes at a time when equity market performance was subdued last month. Both the Sensex and Nifty were down 2.08 per cent and 2.02 per cent in December.

A record 42,76,207 investors joined the Indian stock mar-

ket in November, according to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) data. In the July-September period this year, a total of 1,60,06,447 (over 1.6 crore) people joined the stock market, as India's equity markets soared to record highs.

The stock exchange also informed that till December 23 this year, the total number of registered investors stood at 21,02,25,329 (over 21.02 crore).

SAFE-HAVEN

Gold firms near four-week peak

REUTERS

Mumbai, Jan 9: Gold prices hovered near a four-week high Thursday, supported by safe-haven demand, while investors pondered about how US President-elect Donald Trump's policies would impact the economy and inflation.



Spot gold inched up 0.1% to \$2,663.34 per ounce, as of 0926 GMT. US gold futures rose 0.3% to \$2,679.60. "Safe haven demand is modestly supporting gold, offsetting downside pressure coming from a stronger dollar and higher rates," UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

The dollar index hovered near one-week high, making gold less appealing for other currency holders, while Treasury yield stayed near eight-month peaks.

Gold hit a near four-week high Wednesday after a weaker-than-expected US private employment report hinted that the Fed may be less cautious about easing rates this year.

HSBC downgrades stocks to 'neutral'

HSBC cut its rating on Indian equities to neutral Thursday, joining a growing list of global brokerages that have tempered their bets on Asia's third-largest economy on slowing growth and elevated valuations.

The brokerage slashed its end-2025 target for the BSE Sensex by 5% to 85,990. That implies a 10% upside for the benchmark, which was trading at 77,700 levels Thursday. The cyclical growth slowdown and elevated valuations have capped the upside in the near term...

Sliding for the second straight day, the 30-share benchmark dropped 528.28 points or 0.68 per cent to sink below the 78,000 level at 77,620.21. During the day, it tanked 605.57 points or 0.77 per cent to 77,542.92. The NSE Nifty slumped 162.45 points or 0.69 per cent to 23,526.50.

From the 30-share Sensex blue-chip pack, Tata Steel, Zomato, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Motors, Adani Ports, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank and NTPC were the major laggards.

Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Asian Paints and Bharti Airtel were among the gainers.

Ultra luxury homes demand at all-time high

59 units sold for ₹4,754cr in 2024 despite rising prices

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: Demand for super luxury homes, each priced above ₹40 crore, hit an all time high in 2024 with sales of 59 units for ₹4,754 crore across top seven primary and secondary housing markets, according to Anarock.

Real estate consultant Anarock data showed that ultra-luxury homes (priced above ₹40 crore each) continued to sell briskly in 2024, despite rising prices.

Anarock tracks seven major cities - Delhi-NCR, Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune, Chennai and Kolkata.

Equity mutual fund inflows surge over 14%

Actively managed equity mutual fund inflows saw over 14 per cent monthly growth at ₹41,155.9 crore in the month of December, the data by the Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI) showed Thursday. The growth in equity mutual fund inflows came as thematic/sectoral and small-cap funds saw higher investments. The small-cap funds clocked a net inflow of ₹4,667.7 crore in December, while the net inflows stood at ₹4,111.8 crore in the previous month.

HNIs (High-net-worth individual) and ultra-HNIs are purchasing these trophy residences for personal use, investment, or both

ANUJ PURI | CHAIRMAN, ANAROCK

(53 apartments and 5 villas) sold in these cities for a total sales value of ₹4,063 crore. "The yearly increase in both the number of deals and their overall sales value underscores the enduring demand for ultra-luxury properties across the top cities," Puri said.

Of at least 59 ultra-luxury properties sold across the top 7 cities in 2024, Mumbai saw 52 units sold at price tags of over INR 40 crore each, followed by three in Delhi-NCR. Both Bangalore and Hyderabad saw two deals each.

L&T head suggests 90-hour work week

WORK-LIFE BALANCE DEBATE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 9: Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman SN Subrahmanyam sparked an on-line outrage with his comments advocating a 90-hour work week and suggesting that employees should even give up Sundays.

His comments drew criticism on social media with some asking how long could "employees stare at screens and fat*** managers?"

Soon after, L&T is- sued a clarification saying the chairman's remarks were in the context of extraordinary efforts required for achieving extraordinary outcomes for the nation.

"We believe this is India's decade, a time demanding collective dedication and effort to drive progress and realise our shared vision of becoming a developed nation. The chairman's remarks reflect this larger ambition, emphasising that extraordinary effort," L&T spokesperson said in a brief



statement. The video went viral quickly, attracting some nasty comments as well. "Another CEO promoting slavery shamelessly," one person commented.

Some questioned why highly paid CEOs with different job pressures expect the same level of commitment from less-paid employees.

Subrahmanyam's comments reignited the work-life balance debate that came into limelight in July last year following the death of a 26-year-old EY consultant.

Infosys Co-Founder Murthy, too, had a few months back advocated a 70-hour work week. "India's work productivity is one of the lowest in the world... my request is that our youngsters must say, 'this is my country, I want to work 70 hours a week,'" Murthy had said.

Last month, billionaire Gautam Adani had also waded into the work-life balance debate when he said the spouse will leave if one was to spend eight hours with the family.



