A weaker economy in 2025

IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva expects the Indian economy to be 'a little weaker' in 2025 amid uncertainty the world over, especially in view of the US trade policy under President Donald Trump. Though she didn't delve deeper into the matter, her remark holds credence as the Indian economy is plagued by a host of issues – slowing GDP growth, a weak rupee, persistent foreign fund outflow and high inflation. According to government data, India's economic growth rate is estimated to slip to a four-year low of 6.4 per cent in 2024-25, mainly on account of poor showing by the manufacturing and services sector

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Jan 11: The Indian economy is expected to be 'a little weaker' in 2025 despite steady global growth, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva has said. Georgieva also said she expects quite a lot



of uncertainty in the world this year mainly around the trade policy of the US. In her annual media roundtable with a group of reporters, she said global growth is expected to be steady in 2025, but with regional divergence.

Georgieva said she expects the Indian economy to be a little weaker in 2025. However, she did not explain it any further. The World Economy Outlook will have more details about it. "The US is doing quite a bit better than we expected before, the EU is somewhat stalling, (and) India a little weaker," she said. Brazil was facing somewhat

higher inflation, she said.

In China, the world's second-largest economy, the IMF was seeing deflationary pressure and ongoing challenges with domestic demand, she said. "Low-income countries, despite all the efforts they are making, are in a position when any new shock can affect them quite negatively," Georgieva said.

"What we expect in 2025 is to have quite a lot of uncertainty, especially in terms of economic policies. Not surprisingly, given the size and role of the US economy, there is keen interest globally in the policy directions of the incoming administration, in particular on tariffs, taxes, deregulation and government efficiency," Georgieva said.

"This uncertainty is particularly high around the path for trade policy going forward, adding to the headwinds facing the global economy, especially for countries and regions that are more integrated in global supply chains, medium-sized economies, (and) Asia as a region," she said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

No, you misunderstood. You'll work

24x7, 365 days a year, but the company will still belong to me, not you

J'khand shocker: Principal orders 80 schoolgirls to remove shirts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA



The girls were allegedly forced to return home in their blazers without shirts beneath. The incident took place in a prestigious school in Digwadih under Jorapokhar police station Friday, Dhanbad Deputy Commissioner (DC) Madhvi Mishra said.

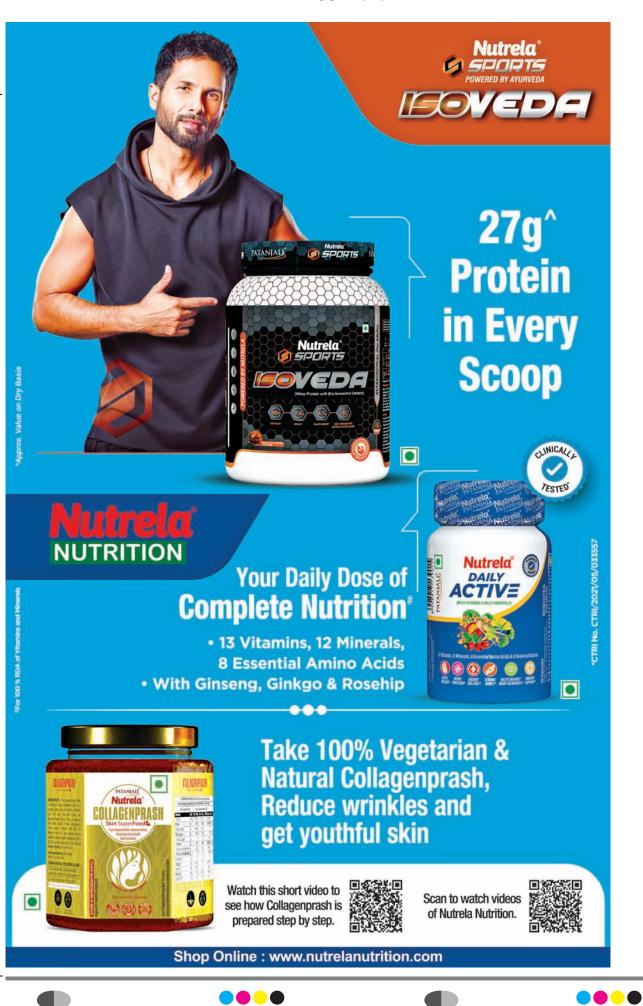
The parents complained to the DC that the students, after completing their examination, were celebrating 'pen day' by writing messages on each others' shirts.

The principal, who is a woman, objected to the celebration and asked the students to remove their shirts, even though they sought an apology. All students were sent back home in their blazers without

the shirts, the parents told the DC.

"Several guardians lodged complaints against the principal. We also talked to some of the victim girls. The administration has taken the matter seriously. A committee has been set up to probe the matter," Mishra said. Action would be taken on the basis of the probe panel's report, the DC said.

Jharia MLA Ragini Singh described the incident as 'shameful and unfortunate.'



Insurance anxiety grips victims

As hundreds of Los
Angeles residents return to
find homes reduced to ashes
due to a devastating wave of
wildfires, many are fearful
that their insurance policies
may not cover the rebuild
cost and that future
premiums will be
astronomical

REUTER

Altadena, California, Jan 11: As Los Angeles construction worker Ivan De La Torre surveyed a landscape of smoking wreckage in fire-ravaged Altadena, a question nagged at him: how would insurance companies cover the cost of rebuilding an entire neighborhood?

As hundreds of Los Angeles residents return to find homes reduced to ashes due to a devastating wave of wildfires, many are fearful that their insurance policies may not cover the rebuild cost and that future premiums will be astronomical.

"My concern is that the insurance companies won't be able to handle all the claims and file for bankruptcy and that's that. It's scary," said De La Torre, 32, whose uncle and sister both lost their houses in a fire that consumed half of Altadena, a suburb north of Los Angeles of some 40,000 people.

Leo Frank III, a 66-year-old actor



- Wildfire survivors fear insurance will not cover rebuild costs
- Insurance companies pledge to help homeowners

who lost his family home in Altadena, said he fears insurers could drag their feet on paying claims and fail to cover the full cost of reconstruction

"We will rebuild. No one is taking our house," said Frank, as he hunted for a shower seat for his 96-yearold mother in a parking lot full of donated supplies in Pasadena.

"But it will be a mess."

Frank said he knows some neighbors who lost their homeowners coverage prior to the fires as insurers retreated from parched regions in California increasingly prone to wildfires.

"We were lucky we still had a policy," he said.

The wildfires, among the worst natural disasters ever to hit Cali-

- Homeowners increasingly rely on state-backed coverage
- Insurance costs from California fires could top \$20 billion

fornia, have killed at least 11 people and destroyed or badly damaged more than 10,000 structures.

Reuters contacted nine of the top home insurance companies in California for comment.

State Farm, Nationwide, Allstate, Mercury, Liberty Mutual and Farmers responded with statements saying they were working with policyholders to help them make claims, without addressing specific concerns about residents not receiving

sufficient payouts or rising future

premiums.
Following the fires this week,
California Insurance Commissioner
Ricardo Lara invoked moratorium
powers to suspend all policy non-renewals and cancellations from insurance companies for one year.

Jeju Air black box data missing from crucial minutes before crash



REUTER

Seoul, Jan 11: The two black boxes on the Boeing jet involved in the worst aviation disaster on South Korean soil stopped recording about four minutes before the accident, the transport ministry said Saturday.

South Korean investigators previ-

ously said the flight data and cockpit voice recorders were key to finding out the cause of last month's crash that killed 179 people. It happened about four minutes af-

It happened about four minutes after the pilot of the airliner operated by Jeju Air reported a bird strike.

Authorities investigating the crash plan to analyse what caused the black boxes to stop recording, the ministry said in a statement.

The voice recorder was initially analysed in South Korea, and, when data was found to be missing, sent to a US National Transportation Safety Board laboratory, the ministry said.

Black box recorders collect data on communications involving pilots in

- Data could be crucial to determining cause of crash Dec 29
- Crash killed 179 people, the worse on South Korean territory
- Black boxes record communications data and aircraft systems performance

the cockpit as well as how the aircraft systems perform in-flight.

Jeju Air, which departed the Thai capital Bangkok for Muan in southwestern South Korea, belly-landed and overshot the regional airport's runway Dec 29, exploding into flames after hitting an embankment. Only two people survived - crew members who were sitting in the tail section.

Two minutes before the pilots declared a Mayday emergency call, air traffic control gave caution for "bird activity".

Sim Jai-dong, a former transport ministry accident investigator, said the discovery of the missing data from the budget airline's Boeing 737-800 jet's crucial final minutes was surprising and suggests all power, including backup, may have been cut, which is rare.

The transport ministry said other data available would be used in the investigation and that it would ensure the probe is transparent and that information is shared with the victims' families.

Vandalism against minorities 'political in nature': B'desh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Jan 11: A vast majority of incidents against the minority communities since August 4 last year were 'political in nature' and not 'communal,' Bangladesh government said Saturday quoting a police report.

Police have set up a WhatsApp number to directly receive complaints of communal violence and maintain contact with the minority community. Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' press wing said here that the police investigation came after the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council recently claimed that there were 2,010 incidents of communal violence since a day before deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled the country August 5 following a massive student-led protest that toppled her 16-year regime.

Of these, a total of 1,769 incidents were reported as attacks and vandalism; police have so far registered 62 cases on the merits of the claims, and arrested at least 35 culprits based on the investigation.

Over 150 workers of Imran Khan's party granted bail

Islamabad: An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan granted bail to at least 153 workers of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, more than a month after they were arrested during a protest. During a hearing, presided over by Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) judge Abual Hasnat Zulgarnain, petitions of 177 Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) workers were heard. Subsequently, bail was granted to 153 of them while the court rejected the pleas of 24 Friday, Dawn newspaper reported. Khan, 72, had November 13 issued a "final call" for nationwide protests November 26. demanding the restoration of the PTI's electoral mandate, the release of detained party members, and the reversal of the 26th constitutional amendment. Responding to his call, thousands of PTI workers reached Islamahad but faced a crackdown by police, which forcibly dispersed them while arresting more than 1,400.

Chinese Foreign Minister makes surprise visit to Maldives

Beijing/Male: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi made a surprise visit to the Maldives, during which he held talks with President Mohamed Muizzu and discussed the state of bilateral relations, amid Male's recent warming up to India. Wang, who is also a member of the powerful Political Bureau of the Communist Party, met Muizzu during his stopover in Male Friday while on his way back from a tour, official media reported. This was the first major visit by a Chinese official to Maldives after Muizzu visited China in January last year, months after his election. During Muizzu's visit, the two countries elevated the bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and signed some key agreements. In his meeting with Wang, Muizzu stressed the importance of fast-tracking key infrastructure projects outlined in the agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between the two countries, Maldives media reported. He emphasised the need to prioritise social housing and road development projects, which are among the most urgent requirements for the Maldivian people,

and referred to China's commitments in this regard.

UK seeks 'common ground' with China

Britain's Treasury chief Rachel Reeves travelled to Beijing accompanied

by a delegation of British business leaders and finance officials

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

London, Jan 11: The UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, arrived in China this weekend for the first UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) since 2019 in an effort to seek "common ground" on trade and investment with Beijing.

According to the UK Treasury department, Reeves met with her counterpart, Vice Premier He Lifeng, Saturday for a series of conversations around the support for safe trade and investment.

It claims to have resulted in agreements worth GBP 600 million to the British economy as both sides agreed to deeper cooperation across areas such as financial services, trade, investment, and the climate to support secure growth.

"By finding common ground on trade and investment while being candid about our differences and upholding national security as the first duty of this gov-



ernment, we can build a longterm economic relationship with China that works in the national interest," said Rachel Reeves.

"The agreements we've reached show that pragmatic cooperation between the world's largest economies can help us boost economic growth for the benefit of working people - a priority of our Plan for Change. More widely, today is a platform for respectful and consistent future relations with China. One where we can be frank and open on areas where we disagree, protecting our values and security interests, and finding opportunities for safe trade and investment," she said.

The minister is joined on her visit by the Indian-origin chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) Nikhil Rathi, Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey and senior representatives from some of Britain's biggest financial services firms. **VOLUME 14, ISSUE 282 I www. orissapost.com**

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Athlete raped by 60 people over 5 years

RESS TRUST OF INDIA

Pathanamthitta, Jan 11: An 18-year-old athlete from Kerala has claimed that she was raped by over 60 people over a period of five years.

Fifteen persons have been taken into custody for allegedly raping the Dalit girl at various locations when she was a minor, police Saturday said. While six persons were arrested Friday after registering five FIRs in two police stations in the Pathanamthitta district, nine people were apprehended Saturday, the police added.

The police said that they re-

ceived evidence indicating that the girl was exploited by individuals including her coaches, fellow athletes, and classmates.

As per the statement of the girl, she had used her father's mobile phone to communicate with the suspects and 40 persons have been identified by verifying the phone details and the information from the diary in her possession, police sources said.

As the incidents occurred when she was a minor, sections of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act also would be

invoked against the accused, a top police official said.

Meanwhile, the Pathanamthitta Child Welfare Committee (CWC) stated that individuals outside the Pathanamthitta district might also be involved in the case.

According to the CWC chairman, the girl had been a victim of sexual exploitation since the age of 13. As it was an unusual case, she was referred to a psychologist for more indepth counselling, he told a news channel. The CWC also revealed that several phone numbers of potential suspects were found saved on her father's phone.



CT: Rescue operation underway after an under-construction building collapsed at Kannauj railway station in Uttar Pradesh, trapping two dozen workers under the rubble, Saturday. At least 23 people have been injured in the incident. Six of them were pulled out of the debris and rushed to a hospital

Hollywood celebrities clear their closets for fire aid Two migrants from

Los Angeles, Jan 11: When wildfires destroyed parts of Los Angeles this week, real estate agent Jenna Cooper started asking friends for clothing and other items to help people in need.

Her request spread quickly through a network of powerful women. Actors including Sharon Stone and Halle Berry responded, providing sweaters, shoes, clothing, handbags, belts, pajamas and more pulled from their own collections.

"I'm packing up my entire closet," Berry wrote on Instagram. "If you live in the Southern California area, I urge you to do the same. This is something we can do right now."

Cooper, who also runs a home goods store called +COOP, cleared half the space to create a pop-up shopping experience for displaced people to take what they need. Many Angelenos lost entire homes in the fires, which were still burning.

Stone circulated information about the donations on social media, which helped attract publicity. She and her sister, Kelly Stone, contributed clothing, bedding and more, and Kelly volunteered to assist shoppers.

"The first thing they need when they come in the store is a hug," Kelly Stone said. She



then said to shoppers, "Show me pictures of yourself, how do you dress?" so she could direct them to sweaters or trench

coats that reflected their style. At the store Friday, a therapy dog named Jackie Robinson greeted people at the door. Inside, they looked through racks

of dresses and coats, stacks of

denim, shelves of shoes and

baskets of handbags. Offerings

in the mix. Cooper said she received donations and volunteer support from power players across Los Angeles, including actors, exec-

utives, lawyers, restaurant owners and moms. Her network of real estate agents in New York was sending gift cards, she said.

ranged from packages of fresh

underwear from Target to new

or lightly used Zara dresses and

some Gucci and Ferragamo shoes

Ellen Bennett was choosing items for her 72-year-old mother, who lost her home on the east side of Los Angeles. Bennett said she selected "the basics," including socks, sweaters, pants, a jacket and a pair of running shoes.

Bolangir killed in TN

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 11: Two migrant workers from Bolangir district were found murdered near Perambur railway station on the outskirts of Chennai in Tamil Nadu early Saturday.

They were identified as Umesh Pandey, 24, and Kunu Banchhor, 22, both residents of Laxmijor in Hatisalpada of Bolangir. Their bodies were recovered near the railway tracks.

According to family members, the two youths had left Bolangir for Chennai January 1 in search of work. Droupadi, a cousin of Umesh, received a call from a railway police officer in Chennai, informing her about the deaths of the two youths.

The victims' families allege the two were murdered and their bodies dumped near the railway tracks. However, authorities have not yet confirmed the cause of the deaths.

Local authorities have as sured an investigation into the deaths to determine if foul play



downtown



laurels in int'l sphere: CM

Majhi inaugurates Centre for Judicial Archives in Cuttack



Cuttack, Jan 11: Indian judiciary has brought laurels in international sphere, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Maihi said Saturday.

Addressing a gathering after inaugurating the Centre for Judicial Archives on the premises of the Orissa High Court premises here, Majhi said, "Indian judiciary has brought laurels in international sphere. The Centre for Judicial Archives will not only be a preserver of judicial records but also of culture. The state government is committed to providing all assistance, including financial, administrative and technological support, to the centre.

The CM said the centre will serve as a repository of the rich heritage of legal system. torical judgments and cases delivered while upholding the values of democracy, equality and impartiality, he said.

"I am confident that this centre will be a beacon of knowledge and an inspiration for judicial education across the country," he said.

Highlighting the significance of setting up of the facility, Orissa High Court Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh said many endangered important historic records of the HC failed to attract the attention of State Archives for their pres-

"The Centre for Judicial Arservation and consultation of the oldest records. It is not a destination for the elite, but a place for the marginalised to know that facts of their importance have been preserved



in this centre," the Chief Justice said.

He thanked the state government for providing ₹38 crore for the construction of the centre and facilitating all possible assistance in this regard.

Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said the centre will not only be a torch bearer for the state but for the nation as a whole.

In his welcome address, Jus tice Sanjeeb Kumar Panigrahi, who is also the Chairman of RRDC Committee, said historical records serve as a bridge between eras, safeguarding cultural heritage, protecting identities, and ensuring accountability.

"They remind us of humanity's resilience and capacity for growth. By valuing and preserving our past, we not only honour our origin but also equip ourselves to envision and create a brighter and a more informed future. These records not only document events but also provide the context and

lessons needed to avoid repeat ing mistakes. Keeping records of the past allows societies to learn from their successes and failures and fostering wisdom for future generations," Justice Panigrahi said.

The centre was set up May 10, 2022 in a room on high court premises and the new building is located adjacent to the high

Sources said the centre aims at safeguarding and conserving the fragile judicial records of the high court and district courts across Odisha

"Around 75,000 judicial records predating 1950 have so far been preserved. Of these, over 4,132 files comprising nearly 84,888 sheets have undergone scientific conservation, and 1,151 files have been digitised," they said.

Among others, Advocate General Pitambar Acharya and Deputy Solicitor General of India for the Orissa High Court Prasanna Kumar Parhi attended the function.

Indian judiciary brought PBD exhibition draws huge crowds

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: A large number of people, mostexhibition held at the venue of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention at Janata Maidan here.

As per the direction of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the exhibition was thrown open to general public after the culmination of the PBD convention held from January 8 to 10. The exhibition will remain open till 9pm Sunday, Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja

The entry of public was restricted to the venue during the three days of the event in view of the visit of VVIPs such as the President, Prime Minister, Cabinet ministers and other dignitaries, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated the event Thursday.

The convention has four exhibition halls based on themes Vishwaroop Ram - the Universal Legacy of Ramayana'. 'Diaspora's Contribution to Technology and Viksit Bharat', 'Spread and Evolution of Indian diaspora' and 'Heritage and Culture of Odisha'.

Apart from people of the state capital, students from districts such as Keonjhar,

Nayagarh, Puri and Cuttack made a beeline to witness the exhibition.

"Though our school had earlier planned to take children on tour to a picnic spot, we changed the decision last night after being informed that the mega exhibition will remain open for the public from Saturday. It has been very useful for the students,' Sabita Swain, a teacher from Nayagarh district, said.

The teachers said the exhibition offers a lot of learning for the children, showcasing Odisha's cultural heritage, maritime history, palm leaf manuscripts and the achievements of the global Indian diaspora.

The exhibition also highlights Odisha's timeless traditions, such as Jagannath cul-

Though our school had earlier planned to take children on tour to a picnic spot, we changed the decision last night after being informed that the mega exhibition will remain open for the public from Saturday. It has been very useful for the students

SABITA SWAIN I TEACHER FROM NAYAGARI

along with Odisha's tribal heritage, local crafts, and music are also prominently dis-



ture, Manabasa Gurubar and Dola Purnima.

Pattachitra painting, Pipli's Chandua, Sambalpuri sarees,

The digital representation of ancient maritime trade jour neys of 'Sadhabas' (traders) was also an amusement for

2 held for crude bomb attack

Bhubaneswar: Two miscreants who hurled crude bombs at a group following a dispute during the New Year's Eve celebrations were arrested by the Laxmisagai police Saturday. As many as two persons were injured in the attack, IIC P Shyam Sundar Rao of Laxmisagar police said. Rao identified the arrested accused as Debasish Nayak, 24, and Gauranga Nayak, 22. The accused lived in the same locality as the victims in Haldi Padia slums, he added. Rao said December 31, 2024 night the duo disrupted the New Year's eve celebrations in the area by playing loud music. Following this, some neighbours lodged a complaint with the police. The matter was resolved following police intervention. However, the summoning of the police didn't go down well with the duo who sourced few hand-made bombs from Jatni to settle scores with the neighbours, Rao added. Accordingly, January 6 the duo. riding on a scooter, hurled the bombs at the victims' house. The impact of the blasts left the victims with grievous injuries on neck, abdomen and other parts of their body. The duo then fled the spot, and went underground thereafter. Rao said the accused have been booked under Sections 126 (2), 115 (2), 109, 324 (4), 351 (2), and 3 (5) of BNS. They were produced before a local court Saturday.

STEWART SCHOOL HOSTS 64TH SCIENCE, ART EXPO



art School-Bhubaneswar hosted its 64th Annual Science and Art Exhibition Saturday, drawing participation from over 1,500 students who showcased more than 800 projects and experi-

This year's exhibition em-

phasised robotics, with more than 300 projects highlighting advancements in the field. Students across all age groups presented projects on diverse topics, ranging from the solar system and water cycle to global issues like climate change and millet awareness

The event also featured computer-based projects alongside ings by the students. The event was graced by

alumnus and chief guest Ajay Kumar Suda, accompanied by notable dignitaries such as former principal of SCS College Prafulla Kumar Mishra, Puri Odisha Bigyan Academy sec retary Ashis Kumar Mohanty and at HCL Tech Pvt Ltd, Chen nai solution director Deepak Kumar Behera Principal Rashmi Rekha Sen-

apati commended the students for their creativity and dedica tion, calling them "young sci entists" and encouraging them to continue innovating. "Keep experimenting, keep learning and keep pushing boundaries, she said. FC North, secretary of the school, also lauded the stu dents, stating, "This exhibition is a testament to the importance of fostering a passion for science and technology. Your hard work and innovation are inspiring.

The exhibition reaffirmed the school's commitment to nurturing young minds and inspiring them to explore the realms of science and art.

WEATHER

CTC BBSR Max Temp 25.2° 27.0° Min Temp 13.6° 12.5° Humidity

Rainfall **FORECAST** Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky



AFFIDAVIT

I Rashida Begum, W/o Shaikh Fayazuddin, Resident of Vill-Nalipur (Kadim mahala), P.O.- Charinangal, P.S.- Balichandrapur, Dist.- Jajpur, PIN- 754292 Odisha, declare by this Affidavit No.-83, dtd. 10.01.2025 that now onwords I shall be known as Rasida Bibi for all future purposes.

AIEC, ICC ink MoU to boost India-Malaysia trade ties

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: India-Malaysia bilateral trade has surpassed the USD 20 billion mark in 2023-24 and is projected to reach USD 30 billion by 2025. Malaysia is also exploring membership in Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), India Economic Council (AIEC) and the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held recently

in Bhubaneswar. The agreement was signed in the presence of External Affairs Minister S Jaishan-



kar and Minister of Digital of Malaysia Gobind Singh Deo. Key signatories included AIEC chairman Dato Ramesh Kodammal, along with senior

leaders from the AIEC Council. The MoU exchange involved Rajib Sekhar Sahoo, chartered accountant and principal partner at SRB and Associates, and member of the ICC National Executive Committee. alongside the immediate past chairman of ICC Odisha State Council JB Pany

The agreement aims to create a platform for businesses, organisations, and individuals engaged in economic activities in India, Malaysia, and other ASEAN member states. It will facilitate joint events, exchange of views, and provide updates on legislative and regulatory developments in the region.

Mega blood donation camp organised at KII1

Bhubaneswar: KIIT and KISS organised a mega blood donation camp Saturday, collecting a record 3,000 units of blood. Inaugurated by KIIT and KISS founder Achyuta Samanta, the event was part of the "Art of Giving" initiative. Samanta announced plans to collect 60,000 units of blood annually through similar camps across Odisha's 30 districts. "KIIT and KISS alone will donate 6,000 units of blood, ensuring the supply to various state blood banks," he said. Prominent attendees included KIIT Deemed to be University vice-chancellor Saranjit Singh, Pro-VC CBK Mohanty, registrar Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, joint registrar Shyam Sundar Behura, KIMS principal RC Das, and group director Dilip Panda, along with senior officials. Teams from KIMS, SCB Medical College, Capital Hospital, Central Red Cross Blood Bank, BMC Hospital, and district hospitals in Dhenkanal, Puri, Khurda, and Jajpur contributed to the collection efforts, supporting the state's healthcare infrastructure.

Over 600 litre illicit liquor seized; 5 held



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Continuing the special drive against the trade and smuggling of illicit liquor, the Excise sleuths Saturday seized over 600 litres of ID (illegally distilled) liquor and arrested five persons in that connection, officials said

In the first case, the Excise sleuths arrested a 27-year-old man, identified as Sarbeshwar Sahoo, from Kargil slum near the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) while he was trading ID liquor. Sources said a total of 550 litres of the liquor was seized during the search of a car which he allegedly used to transport the contraband from Badamba in Athagarh

In subsequent raids at four different sale points of illicit brew in the Capital city, the Excise sleuths nabbed four persons and seized 30 litres of country liquor, and 54 litres of ID liquor A scooter used to transport the liquor has been seized, sources said, adding that all the accused have been forwarded to court following arrest.

Acharya Vihar-Dayal Agency-9437135727, A.P. Tours and Travel, Maitri Vihar, C.S. Pur- 9861301598, Aurobindo Market-Sai Audio & Electronics-9438304668, Airport Road-Sai Baba Variety Store-9090071530, Anish Infotech-Tankapani Road-9861341488 Bapuji Nagar- Dreamland Studio- 9777517314, Baramunda Rental Colony-Maa Ramchandi Communication-9658821469, Baramunda Housing Board Colony-Pappu Variety Store-9040500106, Cuttack Road-Alishan Snacks-8984236754, District Center (Chandrasekharpur)-Sai Google Mart-9776056507, Forest Park-DTDC Couriers & Services (HB Services)-7381024156, IRC Village-Bapi Xerox-9090090404, Gift Hut(Antriksh Gifts & Decors Pvt. Ltd.)-9954781084, Pruthvi Medicine-9853314816 Janpath-Krupajal Book Store-7978646669, Jaydev Vihar-AK Enterprises-7978116618, Subam Sai Books Store-8895550649, Swain Graphics- 9337121249, Jagannath Mobile Point- Janpath Road, Ram Mandir- 9938475415, Kanan Vihar-Auro Electronics-8260697560, Khandagiri- Swosti Mobile Centre- 7992914045, World Solution- 9938317559, KIIT Road-Jugad Jn-9338545031, Laxmi Sagar-Aditya Mobile-9438191836, Lewis Road-Spider Web-7809186415, Metro Satellite City-Arogya Mitra Medicine Store-9853621640, Madhusudan Nagar-Mohapatra Communication-9124446664, Maa Santoshi travels- Gajapati Nagar- 9777675867, Nayapalli- The Cake Room- 7873660137, Near Mayfair Lagoon-Cookieman-9439491273, Nigamananda-Omm Sai Travels-9668284823, Nr Cosmopolis Main Gate- Shreeram Medical Store- 8763711714, Net Square- Niladri Vihar (C.S. Pur)- 7205634821, Priyadarshini Market-Astro Point-9938134346, R.N. General Store-Nilakantha Nagar-9438642501, Sahid Nagar- Maa Communication- 9437353424, Sahini General Store- Near Patia Railway Station, Mahavir Vihar- 9937586626, Satya Nagar-Baishnavi Mixture & Sweets-7894821764, Samantapur- Download Point-7504557743, Sailashree Vihar-Harsha Book Store-8093449515, Saheed Nagar-Jagannath Graphics-7978652670, Photo World-7978468191, Sainath Photo Studio-8984436129, Shanti & Co-9937071063, Siripur-Omm Maa Sarala Communication-9777682449, Sushree fashion- Jagmara-9938714347, Shree Vision- Sailashree Vihar-9861476678, Unit-3-LIC of India Premium Point-9337787080, Unit-7- LIC Premium Point- 9338227422, VSS Nagar-Friends Cake & Bake-8658200930, Jeet Infoworld-7205195782, XIMB Square-LD Books-9658061373.

state



CORRUPTION ALLEGED IN DMF SPENDING

Keonihar/Hatadihi, Jan 11: Irregularities have come to light in spending of funds under the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) in Keonjhar. Allegations indicate widespread corruption through approvals for various projects. Significant expenses were incurred for a single project, despite trust board meetings not being held in regular intervals. Projects were executed and funds spent without proper trust board approvals.

Records suggest that more than ₹36 crore has been spent on videography, vehicle rentals, fuel, and other expenditures. Discrepancies between approved projects and fund utilisation have been revealed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. According to DMF communication (No. 2559.

Nov 16, 2024), the trust board has been convened once in FY2015-16, 2020-21, 2021-22, and 2022-23. In 2016-17, it met twice; thrice in 2017-18; and twice in 2018-19. However, no meeting was held in 2019-20. 2023-24, or 2024-25. As per the DMF Rules, 2015, Clause 4(4), the board is required to meet twice in a financial year. The last one, held November 19, 2022, was the 11th trust board meeting. Since then, nearly two years have passed without an-

From 2016-17 to September 2024, 2,833 projects were approved by the trust board, while 3,280 projects received administrative approval. Of these, 989 projects have been completed, 1,562 are ongoing, and 708 have not been started. Additionally, 21 projects have been cancelled. Notably, the 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, and 9th trust board meetings mention the number of projects approved but did not include budgetary allocations. For instance, in the 10th trust board meeting, Project No-207, named 'school transformation project", was approved with an estimated budget of ₹30 crore.

The absence of trust board meetings has raised questions about the oversight and management of DMF funds. Nearly 300 projects, approved during the 4th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th trust board meetings, have received administrative approval, and approximately ₹800 crore has been spent on those. Additionally, it has been reported that around 190 projects used fake trust board numbers and serial numbers, resulting in the expenditure of significant funds worth several crores.

According to a letter (No. 2375/25, October 2024) from the DMF office, ₹11,925 crore was collected, of which ₹5,502 crore has been spent. Out of this, ₹36.50 crore was used for contingency expenses. The breakdown includes ₹31.26 lakh for videography, ₹33.97 lakh for advertisements, ₹36.21 lakh for vehicle rentals, ₹14.51 lakh for fuel, ₹5.89 lakh for travel, ₹33 lakh for toilets, and ₹3.38 lakh for miscellaneous expenses that includes spending on tea, as revealed under the RTI Act.

On the other hand, a letter (No. 11258/22, August 2022) from the State Planning and Convergence department highlighted the formation of a 21-member committee for the trust board, which includes public representatives. However, a new committee has not yet been formed since the last

While individual projects have been approved in trust board meetings, many others have received administrative clearance and incurred expenditures. Irregularities related to these processes have been reported to the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, the Planning and Convergence department, and the Prime Minister's Office.

Regarding allegations of misuse of DMF funds, the Additional Secretary of the Planning and Convergence department, Pradyumna Mahakud, said that the Keonjhar District Collector and the DMF trust board chairperson have been asked to submit a report. However, the report has not been provided yet. As per a letter (No. 18260/17, December 2024) from the State Planning and Convergence department, a reminder has been sent to the DMF trust requesting them to submit

Ancient Buddhist relics unearthed at Ratnagiri

itor of Ancient Southeast Asian Maritime Trade Organisation, has stated that the relics span from the 8th to the 11th century CE.

Notably, the intricate hair design of

the Buddha statues unearthed at Ratnagiri is unique and

The excavation is being supervised by

ASI Deputy Superin-

tendent Prajnaprati Pradhan and involves

students of Guwahati,

Assam, Sambalpur, and Utkal Universi-

ties. The initiative is

led by Puri Circle Superintendent Dibash-

ish Gadnayak, who expressed optimism

about discovering more

relics as the work pro-

gresses. However, the

excavation has faced

challenges due to en-

croachments in the sur-

rounding area, he said.

coincide with preparations for an inter-

national Buddhist

congregation sched-

uled to take place at

the site January 12.

The new findings

unmatched.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Chandikhole, Jan 11: Excavation work has resumed at Ratnagiri, the world-famous Buddhist site in Jajpur district, revealing numerous ancient Buddhist relics. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), during its ongoing excavation, has discovered a fragmented statue of Gautama Buddha, a stone-crafted elephant. and remains of fragmented ancient walls, previously believed to have been constructed

like chambers. The site has yielded numerous votive terracotta artifacts, and stone fragments believed to date back more than 1.200 years. Dr Sunil Kumar Pattnayak, an archaeologist and ed-

was unveiled last week PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The 700-page work

'Narendra Arohanam'

Berhampur, Jan 11: A Sanskrit scholar in Ganjam district has authored a 'Mahakayya' on the life and works of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Sanskrit language.

The 700-page work 'Narendra Arohanam', authored by Somanath Dash, associate professor in National Sanskrit University, Tirupati and

University, Veraval, Gujarat was unveiled in a youth festival held at Veraval, last week.

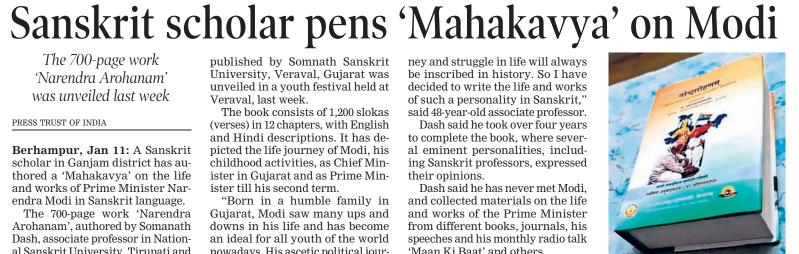
The book consists of 1,200 slokas (verses) in 12 chapters, with English and Hindi descriptions. It has depicted the life journey of Modi, his childhood activities, as Chief Minister in Guiarat and as Prime Minister till his second term.

"Born in a humble family in Gujarat, Modi saw many ups and downs in his life and has become an ideal for all youth of the world nowadays. His ascetic political jour-

be inscribed in history. So I have decided to write the life and works of such a personality in Sanskrit," said 48-year-old associate professor.

Dash said he took over four years to complete the book, where several eminent personalities, including Sanskrit professors, expressed their opinions.

Dash said he has never met Modi, and collected materials on the life and works of the Prime Minister from different books, journals, his speeches and his monthly radio talk 'Maan Ki Baat' and others



2 kids burnt to death

POST NEWS NETWORK

Baunsuni, Jan 11: Two mi nors were burnt to death after a haystack caught fire during play at Balakira village under this police limits in Boudh district Saturday evening.

The deceased were identified as Krishna Bhoi of Balakira village and Krishna Urbha of Bas ant Bahal village under Boudh police limits. Both the deceased are maternal uncle and neph ew in relationship. A pall of gloom and mourning spread in the area after reports of the deaths spread.



▶ UPGovtOfficial 🕇 CMOUttarpradesh 💥 CMOfficeUP

Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

The whole world yearns after freedom, yet each creature is in love with his chains; this is the first paradox and inextricable knot of our nature

SRI AUROBINDO



Aakar Patel

FOR OUR

REVERENCE

CONSTITUTION

CELEBRATING

IT WITH GUNS

PLANES AND

VIPS MAY BE A

GOOD THING.

IT IS EVEN

BETTER

READING IT AND

UNDERSTANDING

AND TANKS AND

Rights & Restrictions

s 26 January approaches, it is time to examine what the day means apart from military parades and VIPs and foreign guests. Republic Day is a celebration of our being a nation where supreme power rests with the people. This is guaranteed through our

What we celebrate on that day is our Constitution, and in particular the rights we enjoy as citizens and individuals. Our Fundamental Rights are those through which we are assured equality, freedom from discrimination, the right to free speech, free association and free assembly, the right to life and liberty and the right to occupation, the right to education, the freedom to propagate, practice and manage religion and the freedom to move the Supreme Court if our Fundamental Rights are wrongly encroached or violated by the State.

This set of rights appears to be potent. But do we actually possess them? The answer is no. We are not entirely free. Let us look at how easily the State has trespassed on rights we thought had a high degree of protection from encroachment: Article 19 is an umbrella Fundamental Right on freedom of speech, assembly, association, movement and profession. It reads: "All citizens shall have the right to: freedom of speech and expression; assemble peaceably and without arms; form associations or unions; move freely throughout the territory of India;

reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business." The reality is that none of these rights actually exist in the form they are supposed to be.

India's first constitutional amendment (legislated under Jawaharlal Nehru) restricts these Rights by qualifying them. Meaning that the State was given the authority to curb them through so-called 'reasonable restrictions." Free speech, for instance, can be controlled by "reasonable restrictions ... in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality, or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.

The State can make any legislation it sees fit along the lines above, which are so broad as to fit anything into them. Let's see the multiple ways the government has infringed upon the rights within Article 19. The Right of Indians to assemble peacefully has been blocked by both law and process. Citizens do not really have this right to peaceful assembly. They have the right to seek police permission to assemble peacefully. The police have the right to approve, deny or not reply (which is often the tactic used by the State in India, so that there is deniability). Assembly in the absence of written permission is treated as a violation

of the law. Readers will be familiar with Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code which gives the State the right to arrest people engaged in "unlawful assembly."

The Right to form associations and unions is severely limited by the process of registration. The State can deny (or delay) registration of organizations it doesn't like. It can deregister those whose activities it does not like. It can ban those it has a problem with. Again, overbroad laws that empower the State to define individuals as "terrorists" without conviction or trial are used to hinder and restrict the Right to association. The Right to move freely across India doesn't exist for those visiting the North East. Rights which cannot be enforced by the rule of law do not exist. Try telling the residents of Manipur that they have the right to move freely. The Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India doesn't apply to Gujarat's Muslims because of a law particular to that state, called the Disturbed Areas Act. It is a law that is old but has become broader with time, tightening the rules under which Muslims can rent and buy property. The Right to practise any profession doesn't apply to butchers who have been told by the State that they cannot slaughter livestock, explicitly denying them their Fundamental Right. Article 19 gives freedom in its text only to entirely remove this freedom through its footnotes.

All governments by all parties that have governed India and its provinces since 1950 are okay with these restrictions. No party is different really in that sense. What is "reasonable" is for the State to decide and the State always takes up a position against the individual.

The general assumption is that the citizen and rights are a nuisance that get in the way of the proper administration of the State ("good governance"). Promises made in manifestoes, for instance, that by the Jana Sangh to remove preventive detention, which is the basis for such laws as UAPA, are promptly reversed when the party takes power.

On Republic Day, it is worth going back to the Constitution to read it and in particular read part 3, the section concerned with fundamental rights. This is only about a dozen pages or so, but is the heart of the Constitution so far as the individual is concerned. Reverence for our Constitution and celebrating it with guns and tanks and planes and VIPs may be a good thing. Reading it and understanding it is even better.

WISDOM CORNER

Keep your eyes open to your mercies. The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life.

Adopt responsibility for your own well-being, try to put your family together, try to serve your community, try to seek for eternal truth... That's the sort of thing that can ground you in your life, enough so that you can withstand the difficulty of life.

What's money? A man is a success if he gets up in the morning and goes to bed at night and in between does what he wants to do.

THIS DAY **IN HISTORY**

- **1876:** American novelist Jack London, author of The Call of the Wild (1903) and White Fang (1906), was born in San Francisco.
- **1879:** The Anglo-Zulu War began this week as the British sought control over Zululand in eastern South Africa.
- 1966: The live-action TV series Batman premiered on ABC; a huge hit, it starred Adam West as the Caped Crusader and Burt Ward as Robin.



THE BRAHMAPUTRA ANXIETY

now that China will construct a massive hydropower dam on the Brahmaputra in the Tibetan Autonomous Region. After a week, the Indian government, in a media briefing on 3 January, "urged China to ensure that the interests of downstream states of the Brahmaputra are not harmed by activities in upstream areas." Earlier China stated that the proposed \$130 billion dam doesn't pose any threat to India, nor Bangladesh as lower riparian countries of the shared river. After much media hype, India responded that it would "continue to monitor and take necessary measures to protect India's interests.'

The 'Brahmaputra anxiety', as I term it, is the apprehension over Chinese unilateral intervention in the Brahmaputra without prior information to downstream countries, especially India, is resurfacing time and again, which has been generating various speculative narratives in media and think tanks. From 'weaponizing water' to 'water hegemony', several assumptions against China's intention have been floating around. Earlier in 1998, 2002, 2013, 2018, 2020 and, not so far, in early 2023, similar news of the Chinese intervention in the upstream had generated intense discourses.

However, whether in regular media briefing or in Parliament debates, successive governments in Delhi have always been consistently conveying their views and concerns cautiously and diplomatically.

It is to be noted that the transboundary rivers flowing from China to India are clubbed into two groups: the Brahmaputra River system which consists of the Siang River and its tributaries and the Indus River system which



It's almost certain that China, having the extra edge of being upper riparian, does not need any agreement with India right now, which would curtail its freedom to develop water resources

consists of the Indus and the Sutlej. India has bilateral mechanisms with China to address the shared river issues. Both countries have operational arrangements for sharing information on the shared rivers - the Brahmaputra (Yarlung Zangbo) and the Sutlej (Langquin Zangbo).

Since 2002, the MoU on the Brahmaputra, renewed every five years, allows China to apprise hydrological information during flood season every year at three locations (Nugesha. Yangcun and Nuxia in China) Similarly, since 2005, an MoU was signed, with a five-year renewal period, concerning the Sutlej for the supply of hydrological information in flood season at Tsada station in China. Once China didn't share information due to damage of the measuring station in Sutlej. During the non-traditional security threat from the Parechu artificial lake (Glacier Lake Outburst Flood/GLOF) in Tibet (2004-2005), India and China showed exemplary cooperation with exchanges of site visits and in-depth discussions at Beijing and Lhasa.

Besides, a Joint Expert-Level Mechanism (ELM) between the two countries has been meeting annually in alternative venues since 2006. This consultative mechanism allows both countries to discuss means and ways of cooperation on the provision of flood season hydrological data. emergency management and other related issues regarding shared rivers. Technically, this platform should erase any such apprehensions that arise from unilateral interventions or misinformation regarding transboundary rivers. Whereas 14 ELM meetings had been concluded, the last one in Delhi in June 2023, the Brahmaputra anxiety is still wreaking chaos in India's strategic thinking. Moreover, despite an agreement on border issues inked on 21 October 2024, high-level meetings including the foreign minister's meetings in Rio on the sidelines of G20 in November, it seems that the information on the proposed hydropower structure was elusive to India. One must be aware that China is famous for its secret. aggressive and non-transparent gargantuan projects. Don't

forget the Three Gorges Dam. While both countries are not party to two UN Water

Convention and the 1997 Watercourses Convention, it's not an obligation for either to follow universal principles governing shared water like 'not to cause significant harm', 'equitable and reasonable utilisation'. 'meaningful cooperation' and 'ecological protection'. Neither, a self-destructive dam-building spree by India in its stretch of Brahmaputra to counter China's motive without proper assessments of the ecological sensitivity of the region.

The proposed hydropower project claims to scale up clean energy to meet carbon neutrality and minimise the climate change risks - hydrological disasters in China. Both countries agreed to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and SDG-6, which guides transboundary cooperation in reducing climate change risks in shared basins. Initiating a joint assessment of climate change risks in the shared basin may potentially address the downstream impacts. Under Baku Dialogue on Water and Climate Action, launched during UN Climate Conference at Baku, both countries can mainstream transboundary water into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to facilitating climate

action on the ground. It's almost certain that China, having the extra edge of being upper riparian, does not need any agreement with India right now, which would curtail its freedom to develop water resources. On the contrary, India, being an upper, middle and lower riparian, must persuade China tactically for a long-term water framework on the Brahmaputra, beyond just informa-

The writer is international advisor on transboundary rivers and climate change risks.

tion sharing, at the earliest.



Avilash Roul

WEAPONIZING

FROM

WATER'

SEVERAL

AGAINST

CHINA'S

INTENTION

HAVE BEEN

FLOATING

AROUND

TO 'WATER

HEGEMONY',

ASSUMPTIONS

What climate justice means



Thiago Barral & Woochong Um

AHEAD OF

ACTION

COP30 IN BELÉM THIS YEAR, **POLICYMAKERS MUST REASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GLOBAL RESPONSE TO** THE EXISTENTIAL **THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND COMMIT TO BOLD, DECISIVE**

TO THE EDITOR

are most welcome to contribute letters

requested to send their contact

address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and

suggestions, preferably by email, to:

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Readers of Orissa Post

(100 words), articles and

words). Contributors are

numbers and full postal

columns (between 600-1000

ovember's COP29 in Baku, dubbed the "Finance COP," left many deeply disappointed - for good reason. While the pledge to mobilize \$300 billion in climate finance by 2035 is a good start, it falls far short of what is needed to accelerate the development of low-carbon energy systems in low- and middle-income countries

Improving access to renewable energy is particularly urgent in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), where 60 million people live without reliable power and 16 million lack even basic access to electricity. This energy gap underscores the need for sustainable and inclusive solutions.

Accelerating the global energy transition depends on advancing economic and social development. One way to achieve this is to integrate modern, sustainable energy into every industry, community, and household across the region, ensuring that the benefits of long-term develop-

ment are widely shared. To be sure, LAC countries have made major strides toward universal energy access, with 60% of their power coming from renewables and more than 98% of the region's population connected to electricity grids. But progress has slowed to a crawl. Since 2010, electrification rates have increased by only three percentage points,

a clear sign that conventional approaches are not enough to close the remaining access gaps.

Consider Haiti, where just 47% of the population has access to electricity, and communities in many remote areas rely on expensive and polluting fossil-fuel generators. Similarly, vast areas in countries like Guatemala and Bolivia still lack reliable power infrastructure. This has profound consequences for economic development, as reliable electricity is needed to deliver clean water, improve health care and education, and enable small businesses to grow

Despite efforts by governments and the private sector, achieving universal energy access remains costly and technically challenging, particularly for the countries most affected by climate change. These challenges are compounded by high financing costs, political and regulatory instability, and limited domestic credit capacity, all of which impede energy investment across the region.

To tackle this daunting challenge, policymakers must adopt a new strategy that focuses on improving stakeholder coordination, increasing efficiency, and enabling lower-income countries and communities to take the lead. Testing and scaling new technologies and implementing financial mechanisms that channel increased resources are also vital for effective, multisector government programmes.

The Universal Access Coalition, launched at the Energies of the Amazon Conference in Belém, Brazil, following November's G20 summit, is a prime example of this approach. By bringing together governments, private companies, multilateral organisations, development-finance institutions, and civil-society groups, the UAC seeks to mobilise resources, drive innovation, and advocate for universal energy access

By fostering cooperation among stakeholders, the UAC aims to promote innovative technological solutions. For example, distributed renewable energy, such as mini-grids and solar home systems, represents a faster, more cost-effective alternative to traditional grid expansion in remote regions with low population density. The Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet, in partnership with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, is also investing in mesh grids - decentralised networks designed to deliver reliable

electricity to underserved areas. LAC countries' efforts must advance the broader goal of revitalising global efforts to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 7, which calls for universal access to clean, affordable energy by 2030. Targeted government programmes in Brazil, such as Energies of the Amazon and Light for All (Luz para Todos), demonstrate how multi-stakeholder approaches can facilitate community-led,

equitable initiatives. Ahead of COP30 in Belém this year, policymakers must reassess the effectiveness of the global response to the existential threat of climate change and commit to bold, decisive action. By harnessing the collective power of governments, civil society and the private sector, we can unlock LAC countries' immense renewable-energy potential, transforming the region into a model

for sustainable development. But success cannot be measured in megawatts alone. En ergy solutions must actively engage local and indigenous communities and ensure they play a meaningful role in planning and decision-making. A just energy transition is more than a moral imperative - it is the only way to meet global climate goals, build climate resilience, and deliver equitable growth.

Thiago Barral is Secretary of the Energy Transition and Planning in the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Brazil. Woochong Um is CEO of the Global Energy Alliance for People and Planet.

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Safety first

Sir, In a heart wrenching incident, six devotees and many others got injured in a stampede that occurred in Tirupati where a large crowd had gathered to collect tickets for Vaikunta Dwara Darshanam at the Lord Venkateswara temple. Whenever a stampede occurs a slew of questions arise regarding the precautionary measures taken by the organisers, crowd management tactics arranged and the various tactics readied if such untoward incident occurs. Sad that these are not seriously taken before conducting the events where heavy crowds normally emerge. Be it music and dance shows, film premiers or festivals and processions at worshipping sites, organisers and the programme conductors should definitely sketch a plan in case such mishaps happen. Meticulous crowd management, smart and alert security and quick response action must be ensured to avoid such mishaps. Also, multiple exit arrangements can prevent such incidents from happening again. *M Pradyu*, KANNUR

Dietary choices

Sir, Even as India is making great advancements in science and technology, changing lifestyles and dietary habits of people are posing threat to the nation's general health. Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (2023-24) indicates worrying trends, especially in traditional cooking practices. The survey shows a decrease in the monthly expenditure on food items such as cereals, vegetables and so on. The survey shows a growing dependence on processed and packaged food. Consequently, more people are likely to develop lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, heart ailments and so on. Over the years, the traditional, nutritious homely meals are being replaced by industrially processed and manufactured foods. Right from childhood, such foods become the preferred choice, resulting in different health problems. People who prefer such foods consume too much sugar, saturated and transfats and salt. Such foods do not contain important nutrients such as protein, dietary fibre, potassium, iron, zinc, magnesium and so on. Elite and middle class people spend more money than the people of other classes on such foods. There is an urgent need to sensitize people about the dangers of following such a dietary habit.

Venu GS, KOLLAM







YUVA SHAKTI SHAPING THE FUTURE OF

Igniting IDEAS for A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

with



PM Narendra Modi

Event Date: 12th January 2025 | 10:00 AM Onwards

Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

 PM Modi to interact with 3000 young leaders selected through a merit-based, multi-level selection process from over 30 lakh participants.

Young Leaders to present their Vision of Viksit Bharat to PM Modi.







national

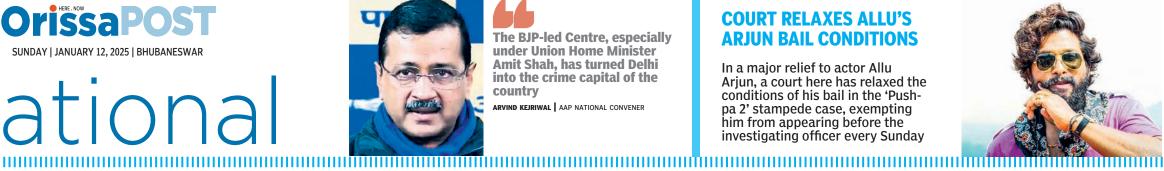


The BJP-led Centre, especially under Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has turned Delhi into the crime capital of the country

ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

COURT RELAXES ALLU'S ARJUN BAIL CONDITIONS

In a major relief to actor Allu Arjun, a court here has relaxed the conditions of his bail in the 'Pushpa 2' stampede case, exempting him from appearing before the investigating officer every Sunday



also setting up a Special Task Force (STF) dedicated to narcotics and drug-related crimes, which will have specialised resources, autonomy, and dedicated police stations

to intensify operations against drug networks

SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU | HIMACHAL CM

From a global perspective, if you look, our patent contribution leaves much to be desired. When

it comes to research, the research has to be authentic. The research has to be cutting-edge JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT

I think, the Governor is unable to digest the fact that Tamil Nadu is developing. I may be an ordinary person but this Legislative Assembly came into existence due to the feelings of crore of people M K STALIN TN CM

SHORT **TAKES**

Part of one-storey **building collapses**

Thane: A portion of an old, one-storey building in a bustling market place collapsed in Navi Mumbai Saturday, fire officials said. There were no occupants in the structure, located on a narrow lane at the Janta Market in Turbhe, when a part of it came crashing down in the afternoon, they said. It was immediately not known how old the building was. Civic teams are clearing the area to ensure that no one is trapped under the debris, said an official.

Four Bangladeshis nabbed in Tripura

Agartala: Four Bangladesh nationals have been arrested in Tripura's Khowai district for entering India without valid documents, police said Saturday. An Indian for facilitating the entry of the Bangladeshis, Acting on a tip-off, police nabbed them near Teliamura railway station Friday night. "During preliminary investigation. the Bangladeshis said they had come from Moulvibazar district and had plans to go to Dharmanagar in North Tripura district in search of work. As all the four persons entered Indian territory without valid documents, they were arrested." Sub-Inspector Kamalendu Dhar told PTI.

ED seizes over 60 kg of marijuana

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate Saturday said it has seized about 66 kg of "high quality" marijuana following searches in Tripura as part of a narcotics trafficking-linked money laundering case. The raids were undertaken on January 10 in the state against interstate drug cartels involved in the trafficking of narcotic substances, including ganja (marijuana) and phensedyl, a codeine-based cough syrup abused as an intoxicant.

Shibu Soren turns 81

Ranchi: Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) president Shibu Soren turned 81 Saturday, and his family organised on the occasion at his residence in the presence of chief minister and his son Hemant Soren. Hemant Soren's legislator wife Kalpana Soren, Health Minister Irfan Ansari and several other leaders were present at the programme.

Sena (UBT) to go solo

Sanjay Raut cited the lack of

opportunities for workers of

growth as the major

respective parties in an alliance

and the right to organisational

■Two days back, the Uddhav

Thackeray-led party announced

its support for Arvind Kejriwal's

considerations for contesting solo

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Nagpur, Jan 11: Amid a blame game over the Maha Vikas Aghadi's rout in the state assembly elections, key constituent Uddhay Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) Saturday announced to contest local bodies polls solo, a move raising question mark over the opposition bloc's unity. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader San-

iav Raut cited the lack of opportunities for workers of respective parties in an alliance and the right to organisational growth as the major considerations for contesting solo.

Two days back, the Uddhav Thackeray-led party announced its support for Arvind Kejriwal's AAP in the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections, in a snub to the Congress.

Reacting to Raut's announcement, a Congress leader said the party's central leadership will take a call on

HMPV cases in a day

Ahmedabad, Jan 11: A nine-

month-old child and a 59-year-

old man tested positive for hu-

man metapneumovirus (HMPV)

in Gujarat Saturday, taking the

number of such cases to five in

All five HMPV cases have

been reported in the state in

less than a week. The baby boy

was admitted to a private hos-

pital in the city January 6 with

a cold, cough and difficulty in

breathing. He has no history

of foreign or other travel, the

Ahmedabad Municipal Corpo-

ration (AMC) said. Similarly.

a man from the Kutch district

admitted to a private hospital

in Ahmedabad was found in-

fected with HMPV, the civic

body said. He also has no travel

On January 10, an eight-

year-old boy from Sabarkantha

district was confirmed to be in-

fected with HMPV, making him

the third case in the State. Two

days back, an 80-year-old man

tested positive for the viral in-

fection in Ahmedabad. The pa-

tient, who has been suffering

from asthma, is currently being

Gujarat recorded its first case

of HMPV January 6, when a

two-month-old boy from Rajas-

than was found to be afflicted

with the viral disease, which

has symptoms like fever, na-

sal congestion, runny nose,

and cough. He was discharged

after being treated at a hospi-

tal. With two fresh infections,

the state has seen five HMPV

cases since January 6. HMPV.

discovered in 2001, belongs to

the Paramyxoviridae family.

It is closely related to the Re-

spiratory Syncytial Virus. The

pathogen spreads through re-

spiratory droplets from cough-

ing or sneezing as well as by

touching contaminated surfac-

es or coming into direct contact

with infected individuals.

treated at a private hospital.

history, AMC said.

the state, officials said.

Gujarat sees two

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

solo or otherwise in local body polls, the schedule of which is yet to be declared. Sharad Pawar-led NCP (SP) said the Sena (UBT)'s decision

will impact the poll prospects

of all three constituents of the

whether Congress will contest

MVA coalition. Raut said the INDIA bloc and Maha Vikas Aghadi alliances- comprising Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP (SP)- were meant for Lok Sabha and as-

sembly elections. "In an alliance, workers of

AAP in the February 5 Delhi Assembly elections, in a snub to the Congress individual parties don't get opportunities, and it hampers organisational growth. We will contest polls to the Mumbai, Thane, Nagpur and other municipal corporations,

Raut further said Uddhav Thackeray gave the party indications that it should go alone.

zilla parishads and pancha-

yats on our strength," he told

The Mahayuti alliance of BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP won 230 of the state's 288 seats in the recently held assembly

polls, shrinking MVA's tally to 46 seats, with Sena (UBT), Congress, and NCP (SP) each contributing 20, 16 and 10 seats, respectively. Raut blamed Congress for the lack of coordination in MVA.

Hitting out at Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar for indulging in a blame game over the MVA's defeat in the assembly polls, Raut said those who don't believe in consensus and compromise have no right to be in an alliance. He further claimed that the INDIA bloc didn't hold a single meeting after the Lok Sabha election results were declared.

"We were not able to appoint bloc. It isn't good. As the larg-(UBT) MP said.

NCP (SP) group leader in the legislative assembly, Jitendra Awhad, said they can't stop Se-

Thousands visit Ayodhya temple

even a convenor for the INDIA est party of the alliance, it was the Congress's responsibility to convene a meeting," the Sena

na (UBT) if it's keen to go alone.

Tripathi, it feels like the "fulfil ment of a dream". "The happiness is that of seeing our culture flowering and flourishing. The happiness is that of witnessing Ayodhya as a city of enthusiasm

city," he told PTI. He said the temple city is witnessing an average daily footfall of 1.5 lakh, and in these three days, the average daily footfall is likely to increase further. Anil Mishra, a member of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, told PTI "It is the result of the hardwork of the nodal agencies that three storeys (of the temple) have been completed. The work on the temple's 'shikhar' is going on, and that too will be complet ed in around two months. This is definitely encouraging."

The idol of Ram Lalla was consecrated in the temple on January 22, 2024. But the its anniversary is being celebrat ed over three days from Saturday (January 11(according to



"The heavy influx of devotees everyday at the Ram Temple shows people's immense faith in Lord Ram. This huge turnout at the Ram temple also means people from different walks of life are very happy about the consecration of Lord Ram Lalla idol. They are all celebrating the first anniversary with full enthusiasm. The atmosphere here is of complete happiness.'

the traditional Hindu calendar 'tithi', Mishra said. The celebrations will go on for three days. "The large number of devotees visiting the temple shows their devotion. Since the temple was constructed, more than 3 crore devotees visited for the darshan of Lord Ram Lalla." Mishra said.

Ayodhya (UP), Jan 11: For

CONSECRATION ANNIV

some the feeling is of deep de-

votion, for others it's a sense of fulfilment of a wish, while some others are driven by sentiments and joy. I feel privileged to be of joy! Occasion is one but emotions are countless. able to serve the people of this The first anniversary celebration of the consecration of Ram

Lalla idol in the Ayodhya temple has brought to the city thousands of devotees from across the country. The three-day celebrations began on Saturday with a recital of Yajurveda and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performing an 'abhishek' on the Ram Lalla idol. Thousands of people have descended on the city from near and far, and are headed to the temple premises to witness cultural and religious events planned for the three days between January 11 and 13. 'Ayodhya is soaked completely in the essence and devotion of Lord Ram," Ram Temple head priest Satyendra Das told PTI.

> year when he demolished the foundation stone of Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project as he was upset over the delay in

> departments concerned. He visited the Prachin Sheetla Mata Mandir in BRS Nagar where a theft had taken place a few days ago and had assured

carrying out the work by the

Gogi's cremation took place at the cremation ground near KVM school in Civil Lines this afternoon with his son Swaraj Singh Bassi lighting the funeral pyre. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Speaker Sandhwan, par ty MPs Raj Kumar Chabbewal Seechewal and Sanjeev Arora and cabinet ministers Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Hardeep Singh Mundian, Lal Chand Kataruchak and Tarunpreet Singh Saund were among those who



An artist during the royal entry procession or 'Chavni Pravesh' of the Shri Panchayati Nirmal Akhada for the Mahakumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

Bodies of 3 more workers recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 11: Divers Saturday fished out bodies of three workers from a flooded coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district, where they had been trapped since January 6, an official said.

With this recovery, bodies of four out of the total nine workers stuck in the flooded quarry were found. The first one was recovered from the mine in Umrangshu, around 250 km from Guwahati, Wednesday

"The rescue operations resumed this morning and three bodies were recovered six days after the incident," the official said. The three were identified as Ligen Magar (27) of Dima Hasao district, Khushi Mohan Rai (57) of Kokrajhar district and Sarat Goyary (37) of

Sonitpur district. The body of one labourer hailing from Nepal was found January 8. The bodies were found floating on accumulated water in the mine after two days of dewatering. Divers of the army, navy and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) brought them out, the official said. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said about the recovery of the bodies in a post on X. "Rescue efforts in Umrangsu continue with unwavering resolve... Our hearts go out to the grieving, as we hold on to hope and strength in this difficult time," he added.

Dewatering of the quarry was continuing with the help of five pumps throughout the day. the official said. The water level of the mine has gone down to 12 metres from 26 metres Friday,

AAP MLA dies in 'accidental firing'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ludhiana, Jan 11: AAP leader and Ludhiana West MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi has died of a gunshot injury he sustained while cleaning his licensed pistol, his family said Saturday.

Gogi, who had a passion for vintage cars, was 58 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

Joint Commissioner of Police Jaskaran Singh Teja said the bullet pierced Gogi's temple and he was rushed to the Davanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared him dead. According to his family members and state party chief, Gogi was cleaning his pistol around 11.30 last night at his residence in Ghumar Mandi here fatally when the bullet got fired accidently and hit him on his head.



dha Nullah (a drain of polluted effluents).

iustice in the matter.

Gogi was in the news last attended the cremation.

2024 declared Earth's hottest on record: Study

The official declaration was made Friday by the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the European Union's Earth observation program. It comes as wildfires continue to tear through Los Angeles, California - a disaster scientists say was made worse by climate change

Melbourne, Jan 11: The year 2024 was the world's warmest on record globally, and the first calendar year in which global temperatures exceeded 1.5°C above its pre-industrial levels. The official declaration was

made Friday by the Copernicus Climate Change Service, the European Union's Earth observation program. It comes as wildfires continue to tear through Los Angeles, California – a disaster scientists say was made worse by climate

This record-breaking global heat is primarily driven by humanity's ongoing greenhouse gas emissions, caused by the burning of fossil fuels.

The warming won't stop until we reach net-zero emissions. Clearly, the need for humanity to rapidly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions has never been more urgent.

An exceptional year

The Copernicus findings are consistent with other leading global temperature datasets indicating 2024 was the hottest year since records began in 1850. The global average temperature in 2024 was about 1.6°C above the average temperatures in the late-19th century (which is used to represent pre-industrial levels).

We are now teetering on the edge of passing the 1.5°C level defined in the Paris Agreement and the average of the last two



years is already above this level. These high global temperatures, coupled with record global atmospheric water vapour levels in 2024, meant unprecedented heatwaves and heavy rainfall events, causing misery for millions of people.

How scientists take Earth's

temperature

Estimating the global average surface temperature is no mean feat. The methods vary between organisations, but the overall picture is the same: 2024 was the world's hottest year on record. The high global average temperature of 2024 wouldn't have been

possible without humanity's greenhouse gas emissions. The El Niño climate driver also played a role in the first part of the year. It warmed Earth's surface - particularly over a large swathe of the central and eastern Pacific - and increased global average surface temperature by up to 0.2°C.

What about Australia?

Copernicus found 2024 was the warmest year for all continental regions except Antarctica and Australasia. But Australia is feeling the shift into a hotter, less hospitable climate, too. Last year was Australia's second-hottest year on record, according to a declaration last week by the Bureau of Meteorology.

Does this mean the Paris Agreement has failed? The global Paris Agreement

aims to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. So, if 2024 was about 1.6°C above pre-industrial levels, you might think the world has failed to meet this goal. But it hasn't, yet. The success of the Paris Agreement will be measured against longer temperature periods than one year. That approach eliminates natural climate variability and factors such as El Niño and La Niña, to build a clearer pic ture of climate change. How ever, the statistics for 2024 are certainly a bad sign. It shows humanity has its work cut out to keep global warming well below 2°C, let alone 1.5°C.

members and party workers celebrated his birthday here.

A cake-cutting ceremony was

SUNDAY | JANUARY 12, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

national

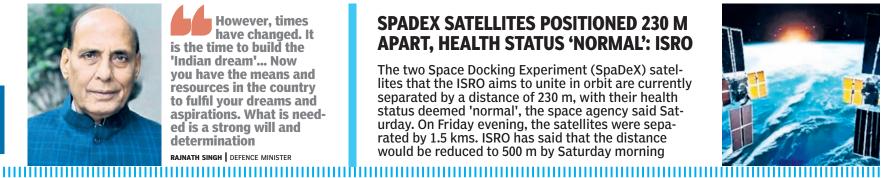


However, times have changed. It is the time to build the 'Indian dream'... Now you have the means and resources in the country to fulfil your dreams and aspirations. What is needed is a strong will and determination

RAJNATH SINGH | DEFENCE MINISTER

SPADEX SATELLITES POSITIONED 230 M APART, HEALTH STATUS 'NORMAL': ISRO

The two Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) satellites that the ISRO aims to unite in orbit are currently separated by a distance of 230 m, with their health status deemed 'normal', the space agency said Saturday. On Friday evening, the satellites were separated by 1.5 kms. ISRO has said that the distance would be reduced to 500 m by Saturday morning





Senior Con gress leader **Rahul Gandhi** will address a public meeting -Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan - Mon-

day at 5.30 pm in northeast Delhi's Seelampur area. A large number of people. Congress party workers and leaders will participate in it QAZI NIZAMUDDIN | AICC DELHI IN-CHARGE

A very tragic incident has occurred, and has been taken. An inquiry committee has also been set



ASHWINI VAISHNAW

there is irrigation facility in 48 lakh hectares in the state. The target is to increase it to one crore

hectares in the next five years MOHAN YADAV | MP CM



📉 Rijiju embarks on 5 day visit to Saudi

New Delhi: Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju Saturday embarked on a five-day visit to Saudi Arabia to sign a bilateral agreement for the Hajj pilgrimage of 2025, where India is seeking an additional quota for 10,000 pilgrims. Rijiju is scheduled to meet Saudi Arabian Minister Tawfig bin Fawzan Al Rabiah Monday when the two leaders are expected to sign the bilateral agreement. "I look forward to visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to sign the bilateral agreement on Hajj 2025 and strengthen the people-topeople ties between our two great nations." Rijiju said in a post on X.

Fire breaks out at food stall

Kolkata: A fire broke out at a food stall near the busy Sealdah station in Kolkata Saturday afternoon, a fire casualty was reported in the incident. Four fire tenders were deployed to douse the blaze which erupted at the food stall located outside the main station complex near the flyover approach. The fire, which was doused in an hour's time, is suspected to have been caused during cooking, but the exact reason will be known after inquiry and forensic test, he said in a

2 killed in centring frame crash

statement.

Raipur: Two workers were killed and six others injured when a centring frame collapsed during the laying of a slab at an underconstruction building in Chhattisgarh capital Raipur Saturday, police said. The incident occurred in Vishal Nagar area on VIP Road where a multi-storey building is being constructed, Raipur Additional Superintendent of Police Lakhan Patle told PTI.

Man killed in encounter

(Jharkhand): A 26-year-old man, allegedly involved in the killing of a Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) activist in Hazaribag two davs ago, was gunned down by the police in Ramgarh district Saturday, a senior officer said. The incident took place in Murpa village under the iurisdiction of Kuiu outpost police station. "Notorious criminal Rahul Turi alias Alok was killed in an encounter with a joint team of Ramgarh and Hazaribag police forces," Ramgarh Superintendent of Police Ajay Kumar told PTI.

All eyes on top court BJP's CM face will be Bidhuri: Kejriwal

New Delhi, Jan 11: The Supreme Court is expected to examine February 4 the law on appointing members of the Election Commission as its validity has been challenged for not having the Chief Justice of India as a member of the selection panel.

The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, which came into force in December 2023, was first used to appoint Gyanesh Kumar and SS Sandhu as Election Commissioners in March 2024 to fill up the vacancies created following the resignation of Arun Goel and retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey.

With Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar demitting office February 18 on attaining the age of 65, the law will be applied for the first time to appoint a CEC. Before the new law on the appointment of CEC and ECs came into force, the election commissioners were appointed by the President on the government's recommendation. And as per convention, the senior-most Election Commissioner was elevated as CEC.

But this time, the PM-led panel will decide on new EC. Between Gyanesh Kumar and Sandhu, the former is senior. Gyanesh Kumar has a tenure



till January 26, 2029 when he

According to the law, a search committee headed by the law minister and comprising two Union secretaries will prepare a panel of five names for the selection committee to take a call. The selection committee, headed by the prime minister and comprising a Union minister named by the PM and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, will recommend a name to the president for appointment as CEC or election commissioner. According to Section 6 of the law, the selection panel has the power to consider even those not short-listed by the law min ister-led search committee.

A 1991 law on CEC and election commissioners dealt with their salaries and service conditions but not the method of appointment. In its March 2, 2023 verdict, a Supreme Court bench headed by Justice KM Joseph (since retired) had set up a panel comprising the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition and the CJI to appoint the CEC and election commissioners.

Addressing a press conference. Keiriwal claimed that he has come to know from "reliable sources" that the BJP will announce Ramesh Bidhuri, party's candidate from Kalkaji seat against Chief **Minister Atishi, as its CM** candidate in the next one or two days

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: AAP chief Arvind Keiriwal Saturday claimed that the BJP has decided to field former MP Ramesh Bidhuri as its chief ministerial candidate for the Delhi Assembly elections, promoting the BJP to dismiss it as a "baseless rumour"

Union Home Minister Amit Shah accused the AAP leader of spreading canard for political mileage. "Can Kejriwal decide the BJP's chief ministerial face? Who is he to make such claims?" asked Shah while addressing 'Jhuggi Basti Pradhan



cused Kejriwal of attempting to manipulate public perception, asserting that the people of Delhi understood his tactics.

Addressing a press conference, Kejriwal claimed that he has come to know from "reliable sources" that the BJP will announce Ramesh Bidhuri, party's candidate from Kalkaji seat against Chief Minister Atishi, as its CM candidate in the next one or two days. He challenged Bidhuri to a public debate to let Delhiites decide who is better equipped to lead. "Once Bid huri's candidacy is officially announced, I propose that to strengthen democracy, there should be a public debate between the AAP's candidate and the BJP's candidate. Ramesh Bidhuri, in front of the people of Delhi, the nation, and the media," Kejriwal said.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva challenged Kejriwal's own CM ambitions. "Kejriwal should consult legal experts and understand that as per Supreme Court bindings, he cannot even be sworn in as chief minister," Sachdeva said. He also reiterated the BJP's

democratic process, stating

that its elected MLAs would decide the party's leader. During the press conference. Keiriwal said a debate between him and Bidhuri would strengthen democracy, allowing voters to assess candidates' accomplishments and visions for Delhi. Kejriwal also called on Bidhuri to clarify his plans for the city if he were to become chief minister. "In this debate, people can assess who to vote for, based on what each has and their plans for Delhi, Kejriwal said.

'Yes, we are challenging the BJP to a debate," Kejriwal said in response to questions from reporters. Bidhuri's recent remarks about Atish: and Congress leader Privanka Gandhi have triggered a controversy. In the past, he has also courted controversies with his statements.

Bidhuri had said Atishi "changed her father" by changing her surname from Marlena to Singh. His remark that he would make roads in Kalkaji smooth like "Priyanka Gandhi's cheeks"had drawr flak with the Congress term ing it as an "insult to women" He later expressed regret

following an uproar. The BJF has fielded Bidhuri from the Kalkaii Assembly constituency. He will take on Atishi who is seeking reelection from the seat. On Friday, Atishi also claimed that the BJP was go ing to name Bidhuri as its CM face and criticised the party for picking a leader who "hurls the most abuses". The 70-member Delhi Assembly will go to polls February 5, and the counting of votes will be taken up Feb ruary 8. The AAP, which won 67 seats in the 2015 polls and 62 in the 2020 polls, is eyeing a third consecutive term in the

PM Modi to inaugurate **Sonamarg tunnel Monday**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Sonamarg tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir January 13.

According to an official statement, the entire project, including the 12-km tunnel, has been constructed at a cost of over Rs 2,700 crore.

It comprises the Sonamarg main tunnel, an egress tunnel and approach roads. Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, it will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg en route to Leh, bypassing landslide and avalanche routes, the statement

In a post on X, Modi echoed Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's statement after the latter visited the site to review preparedness for his visit and shared some pictures

Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 11:

Mahakumbh 2025 will blend

spirituality with a powerful

message of justice, transpar-

ency, and individual rights.

In Prayagraj, a Judges' Colony

and cottages for Lokayuktas, I

nformation Commissioners,

and the Bar Council are being

For 45 days, judges, lokayuk-

tas, information commission-

ers, and lawyers will stay

among the public, engaging

directly with them to provide

insights into justice, the Right

set up to support this vision.

MAHAKUMBH

POST NEWS NETWORK

Fourth Institutional Swarna Shalaka competition inaugurated

Haridwar, Jan 11: The fourth Institutional Swarna Shalaka Competition was inaugurated at Patanjali University under the joint aegis of the Department of Philosophy and Sanskrit within the Faculty of Humanities and Oriental Studies

Speaking on the occasion, the Chancellor of the University, Swami Ramdev, emphasised that embracing the tradition of scriptures inspires individuals to walk the paths of yoga, the Vedas, and the sages. He further added that effort (purushartha) should be accompanied by knowledge and devotion. The Vice-Chancellor, Acharya Balkrishna, highlighted that by following scriptures, they, in turn, protect and nurture us. He stated that through

to Information (RTI), and relat-

Chief Minister Yogi Adi-

himself inspected the Judges'

Colony in Sector 23 of Maha-

The Chief Minister has di-

rected officials to make the

necessary arrangements to

provide a memorable experi-

ence for pilgrims from across

India and abroad. The CM en-

Date: 10.01.2025

ed aspects.

kumbhnagar.

seamless operations.



the remembrance of scriptures. Patanjali University is playing a pivotal role in preserving the Sanatan tradition. He also remarked that Indian culture and Sanatan pride have remained intact through the wisdom of scriptures.

The chief coordinator of the Swarna Shalaka Competition, Prof. Sadhvi Devpriya, shared that 475 students are participating in this competition by memorising scriptures such as the Bhagavad Gita, Shad Darshan, Upanishads, Panchopadesh,

hita, and Hatha Yoga Pradipika. The event witnessed the presence of Vice-Chancellor Dr Mayank Agarwal, Dr Satyendra Mittal, Dr KNS Yadav, Kaviraj Dr Manohar Lal Arya, Dr Vijaypal Shastri, Registrar Swami Arshadey, Chief Central In-charge of Bharat Swabhiman Trust Swami Parmarthdev, Dean of Yoga Faculty Prof. Omnarayan Tiwari, Dean of Student Welfare Dr Bipin Dubey, Controller of Examinations Dr AK Singh. Deputy Registrar Dr Nirmikar, Assistant Professor of the Philosophy Department Dr Sanwar Singh, Acharya Badrinath Ballari, and other faculty members and students.

The program was conducted by Assistant Professor of Sanskrit, Dr Gautam, and coordinated by Swami Ishadev.

BPSC sends legal notices to politicos, coaching institutes

Patna, Jan 11: The Bihar Public Service Commission (BPSC) Saturday said it has issued legal notices to a number of individuals, including politicians" who have levelled "baseless" allegations against the body on the row over the Combined Competitive Examination (CCE) held December 13 across the state.

Speaking to PTI, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Examination Controller, BSPC, said, "The commission has sent notices to a number of individuals. including politicians, certain people associated with coaching centres... those who have made baseless allegations against the BPSC... some more notices will be sent shortly. Although the examination controller did not disclose the names of those to whom notices have been sent, Jan Suraaj Party's vice president Y V Giri confirmed that one of the recipients was party founder

Giri told reporters that the notice appeared to be

"misconceived and deserved to be ignored". The BPSC notice asked Kishor to provide "full details of irrefutable and verifiable

proofs and evidence" within seven days to support his alle gations regarding malpractic es in the Integrated 70th CCE. The notice accused Kishor of making defamatory and baseless statements.

Tender Notice No.: SBP-ELECT-

2025-T-230

ame of work: OUTSOURCING OF AIR ATTENDANT (ACCEA) ACTIVITY IN SAMBALPUR BASED AC COACHES FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS

arnest Money/Bid Securiy Deposit ₹ 1,65,400.00, Cost of Tender documen 5,000.00. Completion period of the work Two years from the date of issue of

Letter of Acceptance (LOA). Tender closing Date & Time: At 1530

hrs. on 03.02.2025

No manual offers sent by Post/Courier Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitte n firm's letter head and received in time All such manual offers shall be considered nvalid and shall be rejected summaril ithout any consideration.

documents of the above e-tender is available n website : www.ireps.gov.in

The tenderers/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS portal. Only registere enderer/bidder can participate or tendering. All relevant paper must have o be uploaded at the time of participating on e-tendering as per instruction.

Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before he date of closing of tender to note any hanges/corrigendum issued for this tender Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) PR-871/P/24-25

Woman dead, four critical post-delivery at WB hospital

Kolkata: A woman died and four others were critical after the delivery of babies at a state-run hospital in West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district allegedly due to the administration of expired intravenous fluid, prompting the health department to order an investigation, officials said Saturday. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who also holds the health portfolio, decided that she herself will go through the probe report, a well-placed source said. The state secretariat asked the health department to submit its findings as quickly as possible. The family members of the deceased woman alleged at the Midnapore Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) that her demise was due to the administration of expired Ringer's Lactate on the intravenous (IV) fluid. Lactated Ringer's injection is used to replace water and electrolyte loss in patients with low blood volume or low blood pressure. Following her death and deterioration of the conditions of four others, the health department stopped the use of 10 medicines including the IV fluid manufactured by one company at

all state-run hospitals until the report of the tests on the

samples is available, the source said.



Lokayuktas, judges to stay among pilgrims

visions Mahakumbh as more than just a religious event. He aims to create a platform where pilgrims can not only connect spiritually but also learn about their rights and digital tools for justice This Mahakumbh is not just a confluence of rivers but an opportunity to raise social To further assist the pil-

grims, free legal aid centers

tion Commissioner Virendra Singh Vats stated that Mahakumbh will offer pilgrims an opportunity to learn how to utilize the Right to Information (RTI). The Information Commission aims to empower citizens with knowledge about their rights and strengthen the

fight against corruption.

are being set up across Maha-

kumbhnagar. The High Court

Bar Association has also estab-

lished a camp near the lost-and-

found center in Sector 4, where

lawyers will provide legal assis-

Uttar Pradesh State Informa-

tance and raise awareness.

Union Bank

Sambalpur-3 Branch Dhanupali Chowk, Dhanupali, Sambalpur-768005, Email: ubin0914509@unionbankofindia.bank

SALE NOTICE

E-AUCTION

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Secured Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of

Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 8(6) / 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor) will be sold on

"As is Where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 29.01.2025 between 12.00 Noon to 5.00 P.M. for recovery dues as mentioned hereunder to the Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest money deposit also mentioned hereunder. ending Litigatio Reserve Price Name & Address of Borrower/ Description of Property Total Dues Contact Person EMD / No Mortgagor/Guarantor to be Auctioned (in ₹) / Contact No.

Bid incremer Borrower: M/s. A.P. Enterprises, Prop.: Mrs. Priyanka Land at Khata No: 344/1305, Plot No.: 1601/4715, ₹17,22,000/-₹25,60,190/-Sharma, At: Sadaipali New Colony, Burla, Dist. Mr. Sidharth Area: Ac. 0.050 Dec, Kissam: Gharabari, Mouza as on 23.12.2024 Sambalpur-768017 / Guarantor: Mr. Ashwini Kumar Sambalpur Town Unit No: 03 Sunapali, Tahasil: Sarkar, ₹1,72,200/-Mishra, S/o: Mr. Durgadutta Mishra, At: Lenda, PO. interest, cost Sambalpur No.: 23, PS: Sambalpur No.: 222 Mob.: Barpali, Dist.: Sambalpur, Standing in the name of Mr. Ashwini Kumar Mishra, Bounded by North: Plot No.: 1601(P), South: Road, East: Plot No.: 1601(P), and charges 1 9040575349 ₹17,220/-

For registration and login and bidding rules please visit: https://baanknet.com

Place: Sambalpur Sd/- Authorized Officer



THE WEEKND REFLECTS ON MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

Singer-songwriter The Weeknd opened up about experiencing a "mental breakdown" and how it led to him reconsidering how he presents in his music career. The singer, whose real name is Abel Tesfaye, seems to be doing away with his public persona.

HOLLAND'S FATHER CONFIRMS ENGAGEMENT TO ZENDAYA

After Zendaya sparked engagement rumors at the 2025 Golden Globes by wearing a stunning 5-carat ring, Tom Holland's father, Dominic Holland, has confirmed the happy news. He shared details about how his son proposed to Zendaya.



Today will be as agreeable as any day can be. You are satisfied with what you have, says Ganesha. Besides, you have

already planned on what you desire and are moving towards it. A date of romantic nature may turn out to be interesting or it may lead to a controversy; you have to decide on it.

TAURUS

This day is meant for taking some time out from your busy schedule, and seeking some fun and relaxation. So says Ganesha. It is possible that you will be getting together with your friends and family members for a fun filled evening followed by a great dinner and a late night movie.

You know where you are headed, and will redouble your efforts to reach your goals today. You are full of energy and all your targets. You will receive unexpected gains owing to your hard work. Bountiful success will be yours at the end of a hard day's labour, says Ganesha.

A restless or irritating mood is indicated. Keep you cool and be calm even in adverse circumstances, suggests Ganesha. If you do so, you will always succeed in life. It is difficult to wriggle out of adversity, if you have hot temper.

You will be able to influence people with your co-operattitude today. You will have discussions on various topics with people who come into contact with you. You will also come into contact with people who share the same mental wavelength as you do,

Ganesha says don't let

setbacks cow you down today as you will emerge stronger from each one of them. It will be your logic and reasoning abilities that will aid you in gaining the perfection in completing your work. You may look forward to spending the evening with your beloved

Ganesha says that today you will get worried over petty matters and be tense. To get mental peace keep yourself occupied with religious or spiritual activity. Along with you will gain mental peace, which will stay with you for a long time.

SCORPIO

According to Ganesha, you will be soaked in your work today. During the day, you may be loaded with duties and responsibilities, however, evening has a different story to reveal. Exciting as ever, a get away with friends may be liberating and relaxing.

SAGITTARIUS A day to full of caution, warns Ganesha. There are

chances that your heart will find its partner, forcing you to fall in love. You may be cupid's next prey. However, watch your steps, as the initial stages of a relationship may be fragile and need to handled with care.

CAPRICORN

It has become difficult for you to bear the heavy weight of responsibilities on your shoulders. But, be prepared for some more; the weight is about to get heavier as more responsibilities are going to be added. will bring down your efficiency level to an extent, feels Ganesha.

AQUARIUS

You may receive some good news from the foreign shores today. The day will bring on a positive note and it will remain like that for the whole twenty-four hours. You'll be in a mood to merry and it will be transformed to everyone around you, says Ganesha.

PISCES

Those who work hard to move towards their goals will do well today. It is a good day for business. You will be able to do a lot of new things in your job-business today. With Ganesha's blessings you will definitely succeed, but you need to work hard without getting disappointed.



Samantha's

'tall ambitions'

Mumbai: Samantha Ruth Prabhu is an actress who

consistently captivates her fans with her unwavering

strength in the face of challenges. After overcoming

the condition of myositis, she recently shared that she

is on the road to recovery from the painful effects

of Chikungunya. Despite these struggles, her

latest social media post showcases her bold

spirit, resilience, and unyielding determi-

The Yashoda actress recently took to

the stories section of her IG and dropped

a picture and captioned it "Tall ambi-

Samantha has been facing a hard

time health-wise. The Oh Baby star

recently announced through social

media that she is recovering from

Nevertheless, this did not stop her

from working towards her fitness

goals. Samantha took to her Insta-

gram stories and shared a video of

herself sweating it out in the gym.

The diva wrote along with the video,

"Recovering from Chikungunya is so

On the work front, Samantha is

presently busy with her highly antic-

ipated action series, Rakt Brahmand.

Mumbai: Malaika Arora and Ar-

jun Kapoor's recent appearance

at a fashion show has reignited

speculation about their relation-

ship status. The former couple at-

tended the event, which also saw

Karan Johar and Siddharth Mal-

hotra walking the ramp. While

no footage of Arjun and Malaika

interacting has emerged, their

simultaneous presence has left

fans wondering if the two ex-

changed words during the night.

Malaika turned heads in a

striking red leather dress paired

with diamond jewelry and sleek, loose hair, exuding her signature

glamour. Arjun, on the other hand, opted for an all-black en-

semble, looking effortlessly so-

Last year, Arjun confirmed his

single status at a promotional

event for *Singham Again*, can-

didly telling fans, "Abhi single

She will be seen sharing screen

space with Aditya Roy Ka-

pur for the first time in

Malaika, Arjun spark reunion rumours

hoon main, relax.'

Malaika and Arjun's rela-

tionship, which lasted nearly

six years, became official in

2019 when they began shar-

ing glimpses of their life to-

gether on social media. De-

spite facing criticism over

their age difference, the

duo remained unaffected

by public judgment, often

defending their bond.

Even after their breakup,

Arjun continued to show

his support for Malaika, especially during her

father's passing last

Their recent re-

union has left fans

both nostalgic and

two.

intrigued, with many

eagerly speculating about

what the future holds for the

the project.

fun. The joint pains and ALL"

chikungunya at the moment.

tions", indicating her life mantra.

nation to never give up.

Reason behind Salman's single status

Mumbai: Salman Khan's relationship status has long been one of the most puzzling mysteries in the Hindi film industry. Despite being considered one of India's most eligible bachelors, the superstar has never taken the plunge into marriage. For decades, fans have speculated about why the charismatic actor

remains single. Well Salman's father, veteran screenwriter Salim Khan, offers a straightforward explanation.

In an interview Salim Khan revealed that the disconnect lies in Salman's expectations versus reality. According to Salim, Salman seeks a partner reminiscent of his mother, someone homely and grounded. However, he tends to gravitate toward career-oriented women, particularly his co-stars, given the close and glamorous environment they share on set.

Mumbai:

Actress Jacqueline

Fernandez, who has

been receiving a lot

of positive response to

during the filming.

her recent movie Fateh,

has said that essaying the

character of Khushi in the

film became her happy space

In Fateh the actress shares

and looks ravishing. The

film also marks the direc-

Reflecting on her

character, Jacque-

line expressed her

gratitude for the

response she has

received. She said,

"Playing

Khushi

was a re-

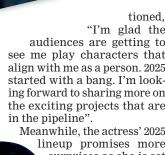
al happy

torial debut of Sonu.

the screen with Sonu Sood,

"There's a contradiction in Salman's thinking," Salim explained. "He's often attracted to the heroines he works with but later tries to mold them into an image of his mother. That's not possible," he added.

On the work front, Salman will next be seen in the big budget potboiler Sikandar, directed by AR Murugadoss. slated or a release this March, on Eid. The movie also stars Rashmika Mandanna and Kaial Aggarwal.



surprises as she is set to star two of the big gest commercial en tertainers and lega cy films, Welcome to the Jungle and Housefull 5, both of which are highly anticipated. She will be reuniting with Bollywood superstar Kumar in both the films. IANS

fur-She ther men-

SUDOKU

2

3

4

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

5

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

8 6

3

2

8

4

9 4

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

9

2 3

4

2 3

E T U

Jacqueline's happy space

was essayed to portray a refreshing character that has intellect and quirk. Her simplicity resonated with me. The over whelming response from the audience is

PEANUTS









CALVIN AND HOBBES







BREVITY

AND SO YOU SEE, ANDY, WITH THE MAYOR. RIGHT TOOLS AND A YOU'RE SUPPOSED FAIR AMOUNT OF DEXTERITY, COULD HAVE TO FIX ADEQUATELY POTHOLES. REPLACED THE POSTER OVER HIS ESCAPE TUNNEL

CROSSWORD

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23 Pick-up place

24 Rabble-rouse

questions?"

(3,4)

25

Across

OOST

- 1 Broke bread
- 3 Captivate
- 10 Encroach
- 11 Picture
- 12 Police state
- 15 ET carrier 17 one's

- sorrows
- 18 Sandpiper
- 19 Cheese and ale
- dish (5.7) 22 Relinquish
- 2 Something to
- talk about
- 4 "Maid of
- Athens,
 - we part": Byron 5 Behavioral quirk
- 6 Piano keyboard 7 Aware
- 8 Lightbulb type
- 9 Boeing 747,
- e.g.
- 13 Smell
- 14 Bureaucratic stuff (3,4)
- 16 First step 20 Nightstick
- 21 Ram's ma'am 23 On the other
- hand

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

susiness



I hope to see a 3-digit mark, a \$100 billion mark, in our food, beverages, marine products and agri exports in the next 4-5 years PIYUSH GOYAL COMMERCE AND

INDIA JOINS UN COMMITTEE

In a significant milestone, India has joined the prestigious UN Committee of Experts on Big Data and Data Science for Official Statistics (UN-CEBD), created to further investigate the benefits and challenges of Big Data, including the potential for monitoring and reporting on sustainable development goals



need ideally is that the volumes in the cash market should be nice and liquid, and

there should be depth in the market. And likewise, the volumes in the derivative market should also have depth, should also have good volumes

WHOLETIME MEMBER, SEBI

I am sure that 10 ago, no-one foresaw that Vistara would

not iust attain the heights it reached but that it would also become an integral part of a privatised, revitalised and rising Air

CAMPBELL WILSON | CEO, AIR INDIA

If there are funds, and we already have like China **Light and Pow**er owns power plants in India.



So it's not that we haven't seen that, but (Chinese) can be a very important source of capital

NEELKANTH MISHRA | CEO, AXIS BANK

SHORT **TAKES**

LIC clocks 14.6% rise in new biz premiums

New Delhi: The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) clocked a 14.64 per cent growth (year-on-year) in new business premiums in 2024. collecting ₹2.33 lakh crore in the January-December period. according to data by the Life Insurance Council. This stellar performance by nation's largest life insurer exceeds the insurance industry's growth of 14.41 per cent and the private life insurers' growth rate of 14.55 per cent. As per the data. LIC collected ₹2.33.073.36 crore in premiums during the reporting period, a 14.64 per cent increase compared to ₹2.03.303 crore in the same period in 2023. In 2024, the overall life insurance industry reported premium collections of ₹4.02.773.18 crore, reflecting a 14.55 per cent YoY rise from ₹3.51.626.20 crore.

Just Dial Q3 profit up

New Delhi: Just Dial Ltd, a local search engine, has reported 42.7 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹131.31 crore for December quarter FY25. It had a net profit of ₹92.01 crore in the October-December period a year ago, according to a regulatory filing from Just Dial, now controlled by Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. Revenue from operation was up 8.4 per cent at ₹287.33 crore in the December quarter. The company "achieved its highest-ever quarterly revenue in Q3 FY25, further solidifying its position as a leader in the digital services," said Just Dial.

India adds record renewable energy capacity PLI 2.0 scheme for IT

New Delhi, Jan 11: India logged a record high renewable energy capacity addition of about 30 GW in 2024, more than 113 per cent higher than 13.75 GW recorded in 2023, according to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy data.

This assumes significance in view of India's ambitious plan to have 500 GW of renewable energy capacity in the country

Besides, India needs to add an average of 50 GW of renewable energy capacity per annum over the next six years to achieve its target. "Exponential growth from

13.75 GW in 2023 to around 30 GW in 2024, resulting in achieving nearly 218 GW now

The growth in equity

investments, mainly from

developers and

institutional investors,

flowed into land

acquisitions as well as

developments across all

asset classes of real estate

New Delhi, Jan 11: India's re-

al estate sector attracted equity

investments worth \$11.4 billion

in 2024, which represents a 54

per cent increase over the pre-

vious year, according to real

estate consultancy firm CBRE.

ments, mainly from developers

and institutional investors,

flowed into land acquisitions as

well as developments across all

asset classes of real estate. Do-

mestic investments remained the

primary driver, with around 70

per cent share in total equity in-

vestments in 2024 calendar vear.

ada cumulatively contributed

more than 25 per cent of the

total equity investments in In-

dian real estate during the year.

Developers led the way in

Singapore, the US and Can-

The growth in equity invest-

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE



Exponential growth from 13.75 GW in 2023 to around 30 GW in 2024, resulting in achieving nearly 218 GW now underscores India's growing commitment to clean energy and its progress in building a greener future PRALHAD JOSHI NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY MINISTER

Singapore, US,

Canada cumulatively

contributed over

equity investments

underscores India's growing commitment to clean energy and its progress in building a greener future," New & Renew-

Realty sees investment

to the tune of \$11.4bn

e-commerce and quick

commerce is set to drive

robust growth in the lo-

gistics and warehousing sector,

creating new opportunities for

both developers and investors

anshuman magazine | chairman &

CEO (INDIA, SOUTH-EAST ASIA,

MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA), CBRE

Domestic investments

remained the primary

driver, with around

70% share in total

equity investments

in 2024

around 44 per cent of the total

equity investments in 2024, fol-

lowed by institutional players

at 36 per cent, corporations

at 11 per cent, Real Estate In-

vestment Trusts (REITs) at 4

per cent, and other categories

comprising around 5 per cent.

man & CEO - India, South-East

Asia, Middle East & Africa.

CBRE, said, "We expect to see

sustained momentum in invest-

ment activity, particularly in

built-up office assets and resi-

dential development sites. The

Anshuman Magazine, Chair-

able Energy Minister Pralhad Joshi said in a post on X.

According to the ministry

Developers led

the way in capital

inflows, capturing

around 44 per cent

of the total equity

and quick commerce is set to

drive robust growth in the lo-

gistics and warehousing sector,

creating new opportunities for

both developers and investors.

In terms of asset classes, eq-

uity investments in 2024 were

majorly driven by land/devel-

opment sites, which accounted

for 39 per cent of the total share.

fice sector at 32 per cent, retail

at 9 per cent, residential at 8 per

cent, Industrial and Logistics at

6 per cent, hotels at 2 per cent,

and other segments making up

This was followed by the of-

investments in 2024

A bout 30 GW of renewable energy added in 2024, over 113% higher than 13.75 GW recorded in 2023, taking country's total to 218 GW

ndia needs to add average of 50 GW of RE capacity per annum over next six vears to achieve target of 500 GW

newable energy capacity as of March 31, 2014.

Since the fiscal year 2014-15, when the NDA government took the reins at the Centre, India recorded the highest renewable capacity addition of 18.48 GW in 2023-24.

The government is eyeing adding 50GW of renewable energy capacity addition per annum to achieve its target of 500GW by 2030.

IT sector stands out in challenging week for Indian equities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: The first week of 2025 has been challenging for Indian equities, with broad-based selling dominating sentiment. Amid this weakness, the Nifty IT index stood out with a modest 1.6 per cent gain, supported by strong results and robust commentary from TCS about a demand revival in North America.

IT's outperformance highlights the importance of sectoral resilience, even during periods of market-wide selling pressure, said Krishna Appala from Capitalmind Research.

The IT sector closed in the green after a gain of 3.44 per cent Friday.

Sensex ended at 77,378.91, down by 241.30 points, or 0.31 per cent, and Nifty settled at 23,431.50, down by 95 points or In the week, the domestic

rough terrain. Q3 corporate earnings projections remain modest, which is not helping investor sentiments. "However, a glimmer of

market channelled through

hope emerged as the initial set of results from the IT sector showed promise," said experts.

Looking ahead, the upcoming Union Budget February 1 is expected to drive market

hardware witnesses ₹10,000cr production



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: The production-linked incentive (PLI) 2.0 scheme for IT Hardware has seen ₹10,000 crore production and 3,900 jobs in just 18 months of its launch, the government said Saturday. India's electronics manufac-

turing sector has grown exponentially over the past decade, with total production increasing from ₹2.4 lakh crore in 2014 to ₹9.8 lakh crore in 2024.

Mobile manufacturing alone has reached ₹4.4 lakh crore. with exports at ₹1.5 lakh crore in 2024. About 98 per cent of the mobile phones used in India are now being manufactured in India with smartphones becoming the fourth largest export item from India, the statement said. With the support of MeitY,

Tamil Nadu has emerged as a powerhouse in electronics manufacturing, driving ₹1.3 lakh crore production and 30 per cent of India's exports. In a groundbreaking devel-

opment for India's electronics manufacturing sector, the production of laptops has started in the country with Union Minister of Electronics and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, inaugurating Syrma SGS Technology's state-of-the-art laptop assembly line Friday.

The new assembly line will initially produce 100,000 laptops annually, with a scalable capacity of up to 1 million units within the next 1-2 years. Syrma SGS currently operates four manufacturing units in Chennai, with its Unit 3 now initiating laptop production, according to IT Ministry.

India's electronics manufacturing sector has grown exponentially over the past decade, with total production increasing from ₹2.4 lakh crore in 2014 to ₹9.8 lakh crore in 2024

with Micro-Star International (MSI), a leading Taiwanese technology company, to manufacture high-quality laptops in India, catering to both domestic and global markets. Within a short span of 18

months of PLI 2.0, the first unit is now up and running in Tamil Nadu marking the beginning of "Made in India" laptops. The initiative, part of the

PLI 2.0 scheme for IT Hard ware, highlights India's growing capabilities in high-value electronics production and reinforces the nation's self-reliance in IT hardware, an official statement said.

The facility is projected to generate 150-200 specialised jobs in electronics manufacturing by FY26, making a substantial impact on both Tamil Nadu's regional and India's na tional economy. These roles are anticipated to have a ripple effect, shaping and enhancing the future workforce in the sector

The laptops produced will meet international quality benchmarks, showcasing India's evolving technical and manufacturing prowess, according to an official

2025 may see more IPOs

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: Driven by strong fundamentals and resilient economy, the Indian equity markets are likely to see another record-breaking year for initial public offerings (IP-Os), according to reports. The fundraising activity in

the country has been broadbased across sectors so far. Domestic investments provided resilience amid geopolitical risks and market volatility, according to a Kotak Investment Banking report.

As per reports, more than 90 companies have already filed their draft herring red prospectus (DRHP) with the markets regulator SEBI. According to the investment

bank, deal sizes are consistent-



ly increasing across products with more than 30 deals worth \$500 million last year. Multinational companies (MNCs) prefer India as a listing destination by making their subsidiaries debut on Indian bourses.

At least 91 companies raised nearly ₹1.60 lakh crore going public last year. In total, firms raised over ₹3.73 lakh crore from the equity market, including IPOs, follow-on offers and qualified institutional placements (QIPs) last year, as per reports.

Two-day luxury home expo kicks off in Bhubaneswar POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: The much-anticipated two-day luxury home expo, organised by the Indian Real Estate Expo, kicked off at Hotel Mayfair Saturday. The event was inaugurated by Housing and Urban Development Minister of Odisha, Krushna Chandra Mohapatra.

The ceremony was attended by several prominent figures, including Dilip Motwani, Chairman of Motwani Constructions - the event's main sponsor, Pankaj Motwani, MD and Circle Head of Puniab National Bank, Laxman Kant Mishra, Darshana Singh and Pravin Sambhaji, Founder Directors of Indian Real Estate Expo. The expo, open to the public from 10 AM to 8 PM, showcases



offerings from 15 leading companies, including Motwani Constructions and Punjab National Bank, serving as the exclusive banking partner.

The attendees can explore a variety of high-end properties, such as apartments, villas, and well-planned plots from renowned developers like Dion, Evos, Assotech, Metro Group,

Urbanoxi Infra, Utkal Greenex, Mahadev Greens, and Orchid Builders, along with emerging names like Sai Harmony.

The event aims to provide homebuyers, investors, and real estate enthusiasts with an opportunity to explore the luxury property market in the City and foster an awareness among consumers about the breadth of choices they have on a single platform.

Investments in startups surge from \$8 billion to

\$115 billion in last 9 yrs INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 11: The total number of registered startups in India have surged to 1,57,066 from around 400 in 2016, when the 'Startup India' initiative was launched, with investment in these new ventures jumping to \$115 billion, from \$8 billion in this nine-year period, according to data released by the Depart ment for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

These startups have created over 1.6 million jobs across the country, demonstrating their role as significant employment generators. Besides, there are more than 73,000 startups with at least one-woman director that have been recognised under the 'Startup India' initiative.

"This represents nearly half of the 1,57,066 startups supported by the government, showcasing the crucial role women play in driving innovation and economic growth," according to

an official statement. India has now emerged as one of the most vibrant startup ecosystems globally, earning its place as the third-largest startup hub with over 100+ unicorns which

are worth at least a billion dollars

These startups contribute di rectly to the GDP through innovation-driven productivity and indirectly by fostering ancillary industries. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government launched the 'Startup India initiative January 16, 2016, with the objective of building a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups.

Work-life balance essential, not optional: Industry leaders 90 hours a week? Why trust, and meritocracy, which is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 10: As the 90-hour work week debate rages, industry leaders Harsh Mariwala, Harsh Goenka and Rajiy Bajaj have weighed in, saying work-life balance is not optional but is essential, and working hard to succeed is not about the hours clocked in.

The suggested practise of working for long hours, if at all required to be followed, must start from the top.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Chairman SN Subrahmanyan had sparked an online outrage with his comments, asking, "how long can you stare at your wife" while advocating a 90-hour work week and suggesting that employees should even give up Sundays.

Following his remark, Subrahmanyan's remuneration, which, as per the company's annual report for 2023-24, stood at ₹51.05 crore and was 534.57 times the median remuneration of the company's employees, has attracted attention from netizens.

"90 hours a week? Why not rename Sunday to 'Sun-duty' and make 'day off' a mythical concept!" RPG Enterprises Chairman Harsh Goenka wrote on X, expressing his opposition to the

He further said, "Working hard and smart is what I believe

ROW OVER L&T CHIEF'S REMARKS



for burnout, not success. Worklife balance isn't optional, it's essential. Well, that's my view! #WorkSmartNotSlave'

Joining the debate, Marico

hard work is the backbone of success, but it is not about the hours clocked in. It's about the quality and passion one brings to those hours".

not rename Sunday to 'Sun-duty' and make 'day a mythical concept!

HARSH GOENKA | CHAIRMAN, RPG ENTERPRISES

He further said, "For our youth to be truly engaged and motivated, we need to ensure they are placed in roles that not only challenge them but also foster growth and learning. When an individual sees a path where hard work translates to a promising future, they are naturally inclined to give their best".

Mariwala said it is pivotal for organisations to cultivate a culture rooted in transparency,

devoid of gossiping, backbiting and politicking. The ultimate objective should be to make work so invigorating and rewarding that the paradigm of work-life balance seamlessly integrates. "When young professionals

are passionate and see purpose in what they do, the need to 'balance' becomes a harmonious blend of personal and professional fulfilment," he asserted.

Last year, Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy had stirred up a storm on the internet when he suggested the need for a change in India's work, stating youngsters should be prepared to work for 70 hours a week.

New era for women hockey

Odisha Warriors to take on Delhi SG **Pipers in the** inaugural match of the first-ever women's Hockey **India League Sunday**

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Ranchi, Jan 11: The anticipation is finally over with the first-ever Women's Hockey India League all set to unfold here at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Hockey Stadium, which has hosted top world events such as the FIH Olympic Qualifiers and the Women's Asian Champions Trophy.

Ranchi is decked up for the festivities of 'Hockey ka Jashn' as fans are expected to throng the stadium to catch their favourite stars live in action. All four teams participating are eager to get the ball rolling with the first match of the inaugural HIL scheduled for Sunday between Delhi SG Pipers and Odisha Warriors.

Speaking about their excitement to play in the first such franchise league. Navneet Kaur, captain of Delhi SG Pipers said, "We are very excited that the Women's HIL is finally starting and we (Delhi SG Pipers) are getting to play the first match. The entire team is looking forward to a good game

"Compared to other teams, believe we are quite a young squad and there will be a lot of learnings from them and they will also have a lot to learn as the league progresses. We have prepared really well and will take it match-by-match," she

Addressing the media on the eve of the league, captain of the



Odisha Warriors team Neha Goyal highlighted the financial benefits of the league

"HIL brings great financial stability for players particularly those who are yet to make the Indian team. This league will certainly inspire more youngsters to look at hockey as a career option and make their dreams come true," she said.

Captain of Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers, Udita also put her weight behind the league by stating that it is an ideal platform for youngsters.

"It is the best platform. We are getting to play alongside some of the best players in the world. Previously, we would only play against them but now we have an opportunity to watch them closely, how they prepare for matches, their mindset and we also get to make friends with them. We

HIL brings great financial stability for to make the Indian team to look at hockey as a career option and make their dreams come true

are getting to learn a lot from everyone involved in the team. Also, this is a great opportunity for the upcoming generation of players to showcase their talent and try to make their way into the national team," she said.

Jharkhand's home-grown prodigy and current captain of the Indian women's hockey team Salima Tete urged the hockey fans of her state to come and enjoy the thrilling action and back their favourite stars.

Salima, who will be turning up as co-captain of the Soorma Hockey Club along with Savita, said, "Our target is to inspire more youngsters to come up in the sport by showcasing the best hockey on the field during

"Introducing HIL for women is one of the best initiatives by Hockey India and this has garnered a lot of interest in the sport as well. I can see there is a lot of excitement here in Jharkhand to come and watch matches. I look forward to a good league and we will do our best. I urge all the hockey fans in the state to come and support us," she said.

Adding to Salima's views, Soorma Hockey Club's co-captain Savita said, "From the success of the men's team over the past decade, we have seen how important HIL can be for us. We want to express our gratitude to Hockey India for this initiative to introduce women's HIL. Top players from top teams get to share the dressing room, and the dining room and share our ideas and thoughts on the sport. This helped men's hockey a lot in terms of taking their game to the next level and I believe it will have a lot of impact on women's team as well.

On Sunday, artists from Jharkhand will showcase their folklore and heritage with cultural performances during the opening ceremony and the occasion will be graced by Kalpana Soren, Member of the Legislative Assembly, Government of Jharkhand, and wife of Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

Three Odisha players named for Kho Kho WC

Bhubaneswar, Jan 11: Three Odisha players have been selected to represent India at the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup to be held in New Delhi.

While Pabani Sabar has been selected to represent the men's Indian Kho Kho team, Magai Maihi and Subhashree Sing have been selected for the women's Indian Kho Kho team. A total of 20 men's and 19 women's teams will feature in the competition scheduled to be held from January 13 to 19 at the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

The trio, who have represented Odisha at the Senior National Championships, have been training at Odisha AM/NS Kho Kho High Performance Centre (HPC) for the past eight months and have been mentored by Sanjeev Sharma, coach of the Odisha Kho Kho HPC.

Congratulating the three players Sharma said, "I have been with these players for the last three and a half years. I closely worked with them when I was the head coach of the Odisha state team and now as the head coach of the HPC. Pabani has always been an all-rounder and an amazing player. He is very sincere and dedicated and was even part of the team that recently won gold at the Ultimate Kho Kho Tournament, so I was always

it to the main squad for the World Cup and I am really happy for him."

Dilip Oommen, Chief Executive Officer, ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), said, "AM/NS India firmly believes in the transformative power of sports to nurture and develop the youth, creating brighter futures. Our partner ship with the Odisha Govern ment in promoting sports such as Kho $\bar{\text{Kho}}$ and Gymnastics is a source of great pride for us We are incredibly proud of the athletes and are confident that they will make the state and the nation proud with their performances at the World Cup.'

Earlier this month the Odisha government had announced that they will sponsor the national Kho Kho team for the next three years from January 2025 till December 2027.

Sharma went on to thank the Odisha government for backing the National team and said, "It is a really big thing that the government is spending crores on the National team, this is not only helping the team, but encouraging the young kids to take up Kho Kho, and are financially backing them.'

Besides the three players, the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup will also have four technical officials from Odisha as part of the event.



SHORT **TAKES**

MBSG dominates

Guwahati: Mohun Bagan Super Giant stretched their dominance over archrivals East Bengal SC in the Kolkata Derby with a 1-0 win in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2024-25 season at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium here Saturday. Jamie Maclaren scored the fastest goal of the Kolkata Derby in ISL and it was enough for the reigning champions to see out their archrivals, whilst going eight points clear (35) at the top of the table, compared to the secondplaced Bengaluru FC (27). The Mariners have now won nine times and drawn once in their 10 Kolkata Derby clashes against East Bengal

Sinner doping hearing Melbourne: World number one

Jannik Sinner will have his hearing into allegations of doping at the Court of Arbitration for Sport on April 16-17, the Lausanne-based body said Friday. The World Anti-Doping Agency appealed after the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) cleared Sinner after he tested positive twice for the banned steroid clostebol in March last year, "No parties requested a public hearing and it will be conducted behind closed doors," CAS said.

US loses seat in WADA

Toronto: The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has confirmed that the United States automatically loses its seat on the organisation's executive committee for refusing to pay its annual funding. The antidoping watchdog said the US failed to pay its contribution of 3.62 million US dollars for 2024, which accounted for 14% of WADA's budget.

India vs England T20Is: Shami makes comeback

Suryakumar Yadav will lead the 15-member team in the series starting in Kolkata January 22

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 11: Nearly 14 months after he last played an international game, veteran seamer Mohammed Shami Saturday returned to the Indian team for the upcoming five-match T20I series against visiting England. The 34-year-old Shami's last

outing for India was the 2023 ODI World Cup final against Australia at Ahmedabad November 19, after which he was out of the team for a long time due to an ankle injury for which he underwent surgery in the UK last year. Shami's rehabilitation pro-

cess was a long and arduous one and a swelling on his knee then prevented him from joining the Indian team for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Australia, leaving Jasprit Bumrah to shoulder the bulk of the pace bowling load. Survakumar Yadav will lead

the 15-member team in the series starting in Kolkata January 22. It is understood that Shami has been picked because he will also be a part of the Champions Trophy squad and will be gradually working on his bowling load. He is not going to play all five games against England.

From the team that played against South Africa in an away series in November, Ramandeep Singh was replaced by the find of the BGT trophy, Nitish Kumar



Reddy, while Avesh Khan and Yash Dayal made way for Shami and Harshit Rana, respectively.

Wicketkeeper Jitesh Sharma was dropped with Dhruy Jurel making the cut. All the players who were picked for the Bangladesh home rubber and South Africa away series have been dropped because the top T20 stars were back then busy with the red-ball season.

The T20I series against England starts with the first T20I in Kolkata January 22, followed by matches in Chennai (Jan 25), Rajkot (Jan 28). Pune (Jan 31) and Mumbai (Feb 2). India and England will then face off in a three-match ODI series from February 6.

Team: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Sanju Samson (wk), Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Rinku Singh, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Axar Patel (vc), Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Mohammad Shami, Varun Chakravarthy, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Dhruv Jurel (wk).

MALAYSIA OPEN

India's campaign ends as Satwik-Chirag lose in semis

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 11: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty's impressive run at the Malaysia Super 1000 badminton tournament came to an end following a straight-game loss to Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the semifinals. here Saturday

Seeded seventh, Satwik and Chirag, who reached the finals last season, lost 10-21 15-21 in a 40-minute semifinal clash.

"They played really well, and we could have followed our game plan a bit better. Instead, we played some random strokes, but kudos to them for playing a solid game," Satwik told reporters.

The Asian Games champions struggled to get the right start and trailed 6-11 at the break in the opening game. Despite their efforts, the Indians could not make a comeback as Kim and Seo wrapped up the first game in just 19 minutes.

After the break, Satwik and Chirag showed better control and intent, making it 11-8 at the interval. However, they couldn't maintain the momentum, allowing the Koreans to recover and seal the contest comfortably. Kim and Seo have reunited for the 2025 season after finding success with other partners.

Seo previously partnered Kang Min Hyuk to the world



Today, the pace of the game was very slow compared to the last three days. It's part of the game. It was a valuable learning experience for us. It is disappointing, but we have a long way to go. Today's match showed that we can still make it a good SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY

title in 2023 and reached world No 7 with Choi Sol Gyu before that. Kim, on the other hand, claimed the mixed doubles silver medal alongside Jeong Na-eun at the Paris Olympics.

"They both are playing like a mixed doubles pair now, which is making it tougher," laughed Satwik. "They are not giving away any easy points, and that's their best quality. We have to work hard for every

point, and that's exactly what happened today.

Satwik, who hasn't competed much after the Paris Games due to injuries, said a little more attitude and mind games could have helped against their opponents.

We were working really hard, but they were taking easy points whenever they wanted, which kept the pressure off them. In the first game, and even in the second, despite us leading, they maintained their confidence. They could take any point at any time. I think maybe some mind games could have worked here and there. We started a bit calmer, thought the game would come to us, but we could have shown a little more attitude on the court and played with a little more fire," he said. Satwik and Chirag haven't played much badminton since the Olympics.

ITF J300

Maaya annexes first singles title in a year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: India's Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi won her first singles title since December 2023 when she rallied to edge past Ekaterina Tupitsy na in an intense girls singles final at the ITF J300 event, while Donghyon Hwang emerged as the boys champion here on Sat

15-year-old Maaya pipped Tupitsyna 3-6 7-5 6-2 in a gruelling contest at the DLTA Complex.

Tupitsyna began with a bang putting the home favourite on the backfoot. However, the Indian showed tremendous grit and effected a turnaround to force

a decider. Tupitsyna probably lacked the energy to fight in the final as she ran out of steam while Maava ran away with the contest, building on the momen-

Maaya had won a title in Pune last year. Since then, making the semifinal in Durban in September last year was her best show as she struggled in

the first half of the season. "I had beaten her 4-5 months ago but I was not at my 100 percent today. I almost lost the second set, I had to focus and take risks. I am glad I pulled it off.

Maaya said after her match. In complete contrast, Hwang dominated the singles final, winning 6-1 6-1 over Roshan Santhosh, who was surprisingly subdued in the match that

mattered.



BOXER NISHANT DEV TURNS PROFESSIO

The 24-year-old World Championship bronze medallist will make his professional debut at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas January 25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 11: World championship bronze medallist Indian boxer Nishant Dev has turned professional, bidding adieu to his amateur career.

One of the most consistent Indian boxers in recent times, Dev, who represented India at the Paris Olympics, has signed with Eddie Hearn and Matchroom Boxing.

The 24-year-old will make his professional debut at The Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas January 25. His opponent is yet to be announced.

The event is headlined by a super middleweight bout between Steve Nelson and Diego

"I'm very excited to be joining Matchroom Boxing and be-



ginning my professional career Dev wrote on Instagram Friday. in Las Vegas on January 25th, The two-time National champi

ndia's first ever world champion and I know I have a whole nation behind me to help me achieve this NISHANT DEV

on is being trained by former professional boxer Ronald Simms.

"I'm working hard every day with my trainer Ronald Simms. I know I have the right team behind me and the biggest promoter in the world to ensure that I reach the very top in the sport," he said.

Dev's amateur career includes a Light Middleweight bronze at the 2023 World Championships. He also narrowly missed a medal at the Paris Olympics after a contentious quarterfinal loss to Mexico's Marco Verde.

Reflecting on his amateur iourney, Dev said: "I enjoyed my time as an amateur boxer and competed at the very highest level in the Olympics and winning a World Championship medal. But now, I'm ready for this new chapter in my career.'



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