

Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yo-

jana (GJAY). The convergence

scheme, for which one bilin-

gual health card will be issued

to the beneficiary, will provide

cover of `5 lakh per family per

annum with an additional `5

lakh for women members,

benefiting around 1.03 crore

families. With Aysuhman

Bharat scheme coming into

effect, over 23.13 lakh people

aged 70 years or more would

also be covered under medical

insurance irrespective of their

The beneficiaries will be able

to avail cashless treatment at

over 30,000 hospitals across

the country in place of only

900 hospitals under the previ-

financial status.

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**BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY | JANUARY 14, 2025** 

### **12 PAGE | ₹5.00**

**PM Modi inaugurates** 

Z-Morh tunnel in J&K

# **₹20K/mth pension** for those jailed during Emergency

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: The Odisha government Monday announced a monthly pension of Rs 20.000 and other benefits for people jailed during Emergency nearly half a century ago.

Along with pension, the state government will bear the medical expenses of all the people jailed during the Emergency, according to a notification by the state Home department.

The benefits will be available to all eligible people who are alive as of January 1, 2025, it said. Hundreds of people were imprisoned in various jails across the country for opposing the Emergency period which lasted from June 25, 1975, to March 21, 1977, when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister.



Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Monday. Around 1.65 crore people took a dip in their quest for 'moksha' at the world's largest gathering (MORE P7)

# Ayushman Bharat in Odisha

## **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL

DHANTU

Rupee has been falling finally land near us?

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Odisha Monday became the 34th state to join the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), seven months after the BJP came to power in the state.

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the people of the state and took a swipe at the previous BJD dispensation for not adopting the scheme. Odisha's Health and Family Welfare (H&FW) department inked a pact with National Health Authority (NHA) in New Delhi to become the 34th state to implement the health

assurance scheme. The agree-

ment was signed in the pres-

ence of Union H&FW Minister JP Nadda, CM Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries. Speaking on the occasion, Majhi said, "This significant development will change the health status of about 86 per cent of Odisha's population. It is going to revolutionise the approach from top to bottom." He claimed that though the Centre introduced the Ayush-

man Bharat in 2018, the then Odisha government did not implement it for political reasons. The CM also announced that the state will set up

Ayushman Arogya Mandir, a health centre, in each GP. Majhi said the state will implement the Ayushman Bharat

scheme in convergence with ous BSKY.

**RECORD L** According to analysts, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Mumbai, Jan 13: The rupee logged its steepest single-day fall in nearly two years and ended the session 66 paise down at its histor-

**RUPEE HITS** 

ic low of 86.70 against the US dollar Monday, weighed down by a stronger American currency and surging crude oil prices. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened

at 86.12, and moved 1 paisa during intraday to 86.11 before closing the session with a loss of a staggering 66 paise at its lowest-ever level of 86.70 against the greenback.

The fall of 66 paise in one session was the steepest since February 6. 2023 when the unit had lost 68 paise. The Indian currency has witnessed the deepest plunge of more than Re 1 in the past two weeks from the closing level of 85.52 December 30. Rupee had breached the 85-per-dollar mark for the first time December 19, 2024.

On Friday, the local currency had declined 18 paise to settle at 86.04 against the US dollar, a day after registering a marginal gain of 5 paise. In the preceding back-to-back sessions Tuesday and Wednesday, it had plunged 6 paise and 17 paise, respectively.

The unprecedented fall was attributed to the relentless chase of the US dollar by investors, which also led to a massive withdrawal of foreign capital from Indian equities. FIIs offloaded equities worth ₹4.892.84 crore Monday.

RBI has allowed the fall in rupee's exchange rate versus US dollar amid dwindling forex reserves and declining emerging market currencies. "RBI will allow the weakness as demand keeps moving up and supplies dwindle," said Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director, Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP.

The RBI Friday said the country's forex reserves

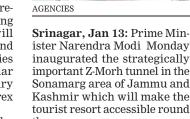


dropped by USD 5.693 billion to USD 634.585 billion in the week ended January 3.

At the same time, the dollar strengthened on better-than-expected job growth in the US market, which also fuelled the rising benchmark treasury yields amid expectations of a slower interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve, analysts said.

Besides, the US has imposed more sanctions on Russia, resulting in Brent oil prices higher to USD 81 per barrel. This comes at a time when investors are already cautious in anticipation of restrictive trade measures by the new regime under President Donald Trump.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said rising crude oil prices and risk aversion in global markets may weigh on the rupee.



the year. After inaugurating the Rs 2,700 crore project, the prime minister went inside the tunnel and interacted with the project officials. He also met the construction workers who worked meticulously amid harsh con-

ditions to complete the tunnel

Union minister Nitin Gadkari, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were also present at the inauguration. This is his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the Assembly elections in September-October last year.

The 6.5 km-long two-lane bi-directional road tunnel between Gagangir and Sonamarg in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district is equipped with a parallel 7.5-metre escape passage for emergencies.

Situated at an altitude of over 8,650 feet above sea level, the tunnel will enhance all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Sonamarg en route to Leh, bypassing routes prone to land slides and avalanches.

DSPL-320







**P3** 





# ଗୋପବନ୍ଧୁ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନାର୍ ସମନ୍ୱିତ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନ୍ସସ୍ଟନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ୧୩ ଜାନୁଆରୀ ୨୦୨୫, ନୂଆଦିଲ୍ଲୀ ଠାରେ ବୁଝାମଣା ପତ୍ର ସ୍ୱାକ୍ଷରିତ

ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଜନ ଆରୋଗ୍ୟ ଯୋଜନା

ଶ୍ରୀ ମୋହନ ଚରଣ ମାଝୀ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ଦ୍ରୀ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



ଶ୍ରୀ ନରେନ୍ଦ୍ର ମୋଦୀ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ଦ୍ରୀ



Isure

## **HARRIS DICKINSON STILL FEELS LIKE 'CHUBBY BOY'**

*Babygirl* star Harris Dickinson has admitted he still feels like the 'chubby boy' despite losing weight when he was in his late teens and isn't used to 'being desired.

## **EVA DONATES \$50,000 TO LA FIRES-HIT FAMILIES**

Actress Eva Longoria is extending a helping hand to the victims of the Los Angeles wildfires. In an emotional video, Longoria said she's donating \$50,000 to the organisation This Is About Humanity to support frontline workers and families who have been impacted by the fires, reports *People* magazine.



# NE FORECAST

🗖 Ganesha Speaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust

You will achieve things today, not by the sleight of your hand but by your communication skills, says Ganesha Your eloquence shall win many hearts The stars suggest monetary benefits, but you need to guard against injury and minor ailments.

## TAURUS

Financial gains are on the cards today, predicts Ganesha. Happi-ness will fly in as you receive some good news from an overseas friend. If you have feelings that you haven't expressed to someone you dearly love, today is a good day to go ahead and let them know. The evening promises rejoicing and relaxation, says Ganesha.

### GEMINI

Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge.

# CANCER

tough, it's better to go with the flow. But you belong to a school of thought that believes that in such troubled times, it's better to stay out of water altogether. Since it is not your day today, you are likely to postpone all important decisions and work

but today promises to be a day of revelations for you. Finally, things fall into place as your

Odyssey nears its end, and you come to terms with your hidden talents, says Ganesha. Follow your heart and dive into the bottomless pool of your imagination.

# VIRGO

tion that you will dabble in writing or performing

Since these are your passions, you may cultivate hobbies in these fields, if they are not already your profession. Enjoy the power you have over people today as you grip them with sweet words, swinging to your whims, says Ganesha

# LIBRA

Your family is the cornerstone of your success. And today is no different. Your auspicious day starts from your home,

Wamiqa schools media influencer

Mumbai: Actress Wamiga Gabbi has given it back to a social media influencer named Nadeesh Bhambi after he posted a troll video about her "PR team meeting" discussing strategies.

The video comes after clips started to do rounds on social media, which drew comparisons between Wamiqa and Bollywood star Aishwarya Rai

> Bachchan The video, which "Wahas miqa Gabbi's PR Team meeting

written on it. begins with the influencer say ing that they have to do the PR for Wamiqa, who is tal-

ented and beautiful. So, 'ideas? Other characters start to throw out ideas such as "new national crush' "Triptii and Dimri who" One says, "If Aishwarya had a daughter, she would look like Wamiga. 'Wamiqa can eat 100 Rashmika and 200 Disha for breakfast" and "What Deepika thinks she looks like", with all the ideas getting approved no chill "

After noticing, Wamiqa took to the comment section and dropped a sarcastic reply.

"Talented aur Khoobsurat bhi? Uff, Thaaaank you. And baki sab ka pata nahi but we did try 'Wamiqa for next President!' approve nahi hua," she wrote in the caption section.

On the work front, Wamiqa, who was last seen in Baby John, will next be seen in Bhoot Bangla starring shay Ak-

Kumar and Tabu.



Members of host troupe Manana Natya Sanstha performed Odia play Astha at Rabindra Man dap, Bhubaneswar, Monday. Written by Sudhanshu Nayak, the play was directed by troupe's president Manoj Patnaik. Apart from Patnaik, popular TV and film actors Ayaskanta Swain and Manisha Rath played key roles in the drama. Among the luminaries eminent film director Himanshu Sekhar Khatua, Odissi dance Guru Ratikanta Mohapatra and Korei MLA Akash Das Navak were present on the occasion. PIC: BIKASH NAYAK

# Ira on her relationship dynamics with parents

Mumbai: Aamir Khan's daughter Ira Khan has been extremely vocal about her struggle with mental health. Talking to actress Ahsaas Channa recently, Ira shared how her relationship with her parents has evolved over time.

Ira was quoted saying "During my depression, I learned a lot of things that I wish I had been taught earlier. For a few years you have been hearing that marriage is compromise and you have to work on your marriage and things like that. But that's the same with your parents also. Like in any relationship you have to work on it.'

ly tells you that you have to build a relationship with your parents. Also, because you're a child and at some point you turn into an adult where you are supposed to no longer see your parents as parents. You are supposed to see them as people.'

Ira was of the opinion that kids should see their parents not just as parents but also as people. Elaborating on the matter, she said, "I realised that when my therapist said, so what do your parents like? I was like, I don't really know them as people. I only know them as my parents. And how can I have a relationship with someone of I don't know them as them? And it's really weird and interesting to get to know your parents as peoples.

She continued: "Nobody real-

# Guru Dutt asked Waheeda to change name as it 'lacked sex appeal'

in the enacted meeting. Bhambi captioned the post:

"Wamiqa Gabbi's PR team got

Mumbai: In her illustrious career spanning over five decades, Waheeda Rehman has graced Indian cinema with iconic performances in films like Neel Kamal, Bees Saal Baad, Khamoshi, Pyaasa, Sahib Bibi Aur Ghulam, Guide, CID, and Chaudvin Ka Chand. At the recent Jaipur Literature Festival, Waheeda revisited her early days in Bollywood.

recounting her decision to

PEANUTS

retain her name despite pressures to change it. Reflecting on her debut with the 1956 film CID, she said, "When I came as a newcomer from Chennai to Mumbai, I was called to sign a contract by Guru Dutt ji. My mother also came along with me. He said that we want to change your name because it's long and not good. When

they said that they don't like

it, I felt really bad. That was so

rude! My mom and dad kept my name, who are you to tell me that it's not good? I refused to change it. The screen can show Waheeda Rehman and you can call me Waheeda while working, it shouldn't matter if it's long.'

Waheeda shared that Guru Dutt, following the industry trend, tried to convince her with examples of renowned stars who had changed their

IF YOUR QUESTION

NO, SHE'D GOTTEN USED TO IT,

URED SHE SHOULD

BE THE ONE TO.

HEY!

Mz

names. "He gave examples of Dilip Kumar, Madhubala, Meena Kumari, and many others. I had a lot of pride in myself at that time, I have mellowed down with maturity. I told them a clear no, because my parents gave me this name and I like it. They said that the name doesn't have glamour and sex appeal. I said that whatever you say. I will not

change it," she added. AGENCIES



# When the going gets

# Call it an epiphany of sorts,

# There is a strong indica-

# arts, and emerge with excellent results.





and you manage to carry this luck everywhere you go with the same tempo and gusto, predicts Ganesha.

# SCORPIO

The target is locked in and the arrow is shot. It is only a matter of time before Cupid celebrates a bull's eye and you find your-self in the mush of things. Sentiments and romance will be the order of the day. There is a good chance that marriage proposals or new relationships will find their footing today, says Ganesha.

### SAGITTARIUS

Today, you will most certainly put your heart and soul into your work. But it is rather unlikely that you will get the returns in proportion to the efforts you put in. Yet, at the end of the day, you will be more than satisfied that you have got the chance to display your innate talents, says Ganesha

# CAPRICORN

New projects and partnership will keep you busy today, says Ganesha. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

# AQUARIUS

. . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . .

If Elvis Presley is who you dreamed of being, today may be your day! You seem to impress one and all, and even money flows in! You play smart today and everything seems to work in your favour.

# **PISCES**

You can probably count your chickens before they hatch today, for it is likely that every nest-egg you expect to mint money will. A good day to trade in the stock markets as well, as long as you keep in mind that the horns of a rampaging Bull market can be every bit as deadly as the paws of a lumbering Bear market, says Ganesha.

# YES, MA'AM, I'M AWAKE... BUT I IS ABOUT THE CEILING, I CAN Z CAN'T RAISE MY ANSWER IT HEAD ..

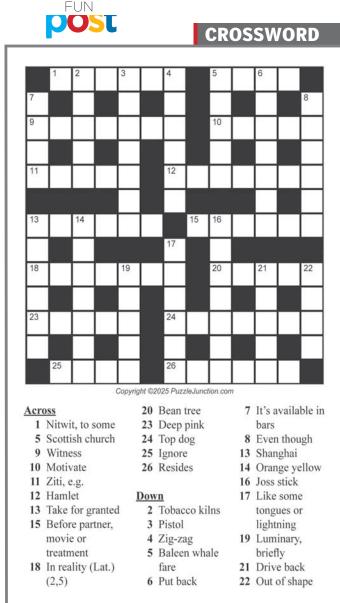
MA'AM ?

# CALVIN AND HOBBES



# BREVITY





CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

# SUDOKU

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

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

## SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

D	E	P	R	E	S	S		M	1	D	G	E
A		A		С		W		0		0		N
Т	U	R	В	U	L	E	N	Т		L	A	С
Е				A		A		Ι		С		L
S	А	Т	Е	D		Т	Α	F	F	Е	Т	А
		н		0		S				V		V
Т	н	E	0	R	Υ		Е	Ν	D	1	V	Е
Н		Μ				Α		0		Т		
U	S	Е	L	Е	S	S		Т	0	А	S	Т
М		S		R		S		R				0
Ρ	R	0		Е	Ρ	1	С	U	R	Е	Α	Ν
Е		Ν		С		S		М		G		G
D	1	G	1	Т		Т	A	Ρ	1	0	C	Α

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













# **OrissaPOS**

TUESDAY | JANUARY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Mohan Charan

Majhi, who attended the MoU

signing ceremony, expressed

his gratitude to the PM for ex-

tending AB PM-JAY to Odisha.

tend, on behalf of the people of

Odisha, the MoU signing cer-

emony between the National

Health Authority, Government

of India, and the Department

of Health and Family Welfare,

Government of Odisha, for the

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan

Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana,

alongside Hon'ble Health and

"It is an honor for me to at-

# owntown

# Modi guarantees highest quality healthcare in state

New Delhi, Jan 13: Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri-Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) will ensure highest quality of healthcare to people, especially the women and elderly, of Odisha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Monday.

The National Health Authority (NHA) inked a pact with Odisha government's Health and Family Welfare department at Vigyan Bhavan here to implement the AB PM-JAY in the coastal state.

POST NEWS NETWORK

ises at Konark

tographers.

vour of the rule.

norm got licence.

Justice Savitri Ratho.

# AYUSHMAN BHARAT

Family Welfare Minister Shri @JPNadda Ji and other distinguished officials. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi ji for bringing Odisha on board this transformative scheme, which is focused on providing quality and afford able healthcare for all. In Odisha, beneficiaries will have access to cashless treatment at over 30,000 government and private hospitals across the

country. Nearly 3 crore individuals from 1.3 crore families are set to benefit from this initiative," Majhi posted on X. He also announced that 'Ayushman Bharat Mandirs' will be established in every panchayat of Odisha.

"Ayushman Bharat Mandirs will be established in every Panchayat of Odisha with the goal of delivering healthcare services to rural areas. An instructor will be present at each Mandir, and

we will also provide additional facilities and services alongside healthcare workers.

The Government of Odisha remains committed to transforming the healthcare sector through various initiatives, paving the way toward a "Viksit Odisha" by 2036 and a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047," he posted on X. Replying to Maihi's X post, Modi congrat ulated the people of Odisha as it became the 34th state/Union Territory to implement the flagship health coverage scheme of the Centre. The PM wrote, "Congratulations to the people of Odisha! It was indeed a travesty that my sisters and brothers of Odisha were denied the benefits of Ayushman Bharat by the previous Government. This scheme will ensure the highest-quality healthcare at affordable rates. It will particularly benefit the Nari Shakti and the elderly of Odisha.'

Meanwhile, Union Health Minister JP Nadda, who was also present at the MoU signing ceremony, said Odisha joining AB PM-JAY is a historic moment.

### Two killed in Janla mishap Bhubaneswar: Two people were

killed after a car hit one of them, crashed into the median and then collided with a pick-up van coming from the opposite direction near Janla outpost on NH 16, Monday afternoon, police said. The deceased were identified as Harendra Singh, 55, a native of Nayagarh district, and the pick-up van driver Pratap Nayak, 30, of Angul district, they added. The car was travelling towards Bhubaneswar when the incident happened, police said. A total of four persons were travelling in the car, and one of them was injured in the accident, they said. Both the vehicles have been seized and a probe has been started, they said.

### HC: Matric pass must for photographers at Konark A Spiritual Sojourn Begins Cuttack, Jan 13: The Orissa High Court Monday upheld its earlier order that validated a policy 'Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj' requiring matriculation as the minimum qualification for grant of licence to those undertaking photography business on the Sun Temple prem-The move came from a division bench of Sanakan Ga Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh and According to the case details, 110 persons were issued identity cards by the Tourism officer of Konark in 2001-02 to operate as pho-Nahakambh Pary The Centre February 1, 2007 introduced a new guideline for photography business on Konark premises and accordingly, invited applications from aspiring candidates.Of the applicants, licence was provided to 110 while 45 applications were rejected. The photographers, (13 January - 26 February) whose applications were rejected, moved the HC challenging the rejection. While the case was sub judice at HC, the ASI introduced a new rule in 2017, requiring matriculation as minimum qualification for conducting photography business on Konark premises. A single-judge bench of the HC ruled in fa-**First Amrit Snan** Meanwhile, fresh applications were invited from photographers March 10, 2022. Those who fulfilled the eligibility as per the 2017 Sankranti Makar **Odia scientist's** Al intervention to January, 2025 protect mangroves

#### OST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: In what would further strengthen the mangrove conservation efforts, a groundbreaking initiative is underway in Devi River Mouth, connecting Puri and Jagatsinghpur areas, as US-based renowned Odia scientist Anjan Kumar Panda is all set to pioneer this initiative through Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Mangroves have long proven themselves to be the guardians of Odisha's coastline, shielding the state from numerous natural calamities. However, despite their importance, mangroves in major estuarine ecosystems like Devi River Mouth, Brahmani, Baitarani, and Budhabalanga have lacked protection due to the absence of a special policy for natural mangrove protection.

During his recent trip to India to attend the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention held in Bhubaneswar, Panda had the opportunity to visit a community-led mangrove conservation site in Devi River Mouth.

During his visit, Panda, based in San Francisco, USA, explored the natural mangroves and met the community working at the grassroots level to popularise mangrove conservation in India.

He also interacted with young mangrove conservationist Soumya Ranjan Biswal, who has been working tirelessly to promote community-led mangrove conservation.

Panda is set to develop an AI-led initiative, in collaboration with conservationists, to preserve mangroves and Olive Ridley turtles.

'This groundbreaking initiative aims to harness AI capabilities to conserve these fragile ecosystems at an unprecedented scale, connecting with global mainstream efforts from Astaranga mangrove conservation bases," said Panda.

The initiative will leverage AI technology to monitor mangrove health, predict climate impacts, optimise conservation efforts, enhance community engagement, and inform policy decisions.

By harnessing the power of AI, this project has the potential to revolutionise mangrove conservation and protecting biodiversity.

The initiative will also involve consultation and collaboration with state government agencies to expedite efforts and ensure the preservation of natural mangroves.

# Mahakumbh

# Inannin Major Snan Dates

Mauni Amavasya – 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2025 Basant Panchami - 3" February, 2025 Maghi Purnima - 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 Maha Shivaratri - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025



Send 'Hi' to Kumbh Sah'Al'yak No: 8887847135

K Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

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# **OrissaPOST**

TUESDAY | JANUARY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

# owntowr



# **President Murmu virtually launches OMFED** initiatives

President calls India's milk product achievements 'extraordinary' and stresses the crucial role of livestock in rural economy

economy and rural household

income, Murmu said, "To sup-

port and promote our livestock,

several measures and policy

efforts have been taken by the

government for their breed de-

velopment and genetic upgra-

India's achievements in the

"The productivity of our

field of milk and milk products

are extraordinary, she added.

Milch cattle has also seen ex-

traordinary growth in the last

10 years," she said, according to

an official statement issued by

reflect our commitment to ex-

cellence in animal husbandry.

Still, a lot can be done regard-

and those obtained from ani-

mals, including milk, will im-

The quality of food products

ing animal health," she said.

"All these achievements

the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

dation."



### PNN & AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 13: President Droupadi Murmu Monday virtually launched the cow induction, Giftmilk and market support for the Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) initiatives of the National Dairy Development Board from the Rashtrapati Bhavan here.

She termed India's achievements in the field of milk products 'extraordinary', saying livestock plays an important role in the rural economy of the country.

India has a diverse range of livestock breeds, all of which have contributed to the rich agricultural heritage of the country, she said.

Stating that livestock plays an important role in the rural

WEATHER								
	BBSR	СТС						
Max Temp	29.0°	26.0°						
Min Temp	13.4°	13.5°						
Humidity	86%	90%						
Rainfall	Nil	Nil						
FORECAS Fog/mist in th and mainly cle later.	e morning	Ö						

MARKET WATCH								
INDEX VARIATION								
SENSEX	76330.01	¥	1048.90					
NIFTY	23085.95	¥	345.55					
DOLLAR	86.49	¥	0.62					
EURO	88.49	¥	0.33					
GOLD	₹ <b>78,173</b>	¥	₹193					
	IDEX SENSEX NIFTY DOLLAR EURO	IDEX         VARIATIO           SENSEX         76330.01           NIFTY         23085.95           DOLLAR         86.49           EURO         88.49	IDEX         VARIATION           SENSEX         76330.01         *           NIFTY         23085.95         *           DOLLAR         86.49         *           EURO         88.49         *					

prove by paying attention to both the number and health of livestock, Murmu said.

"By making such efforts in all areas of the country, a significant contribution can be made to building a healthy India," she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said the state government recently launched the Mukhvamantri Kamadhenu Yojana to enhance milk production over the next five years. The government has been

providing financial assistance up to 70 per cent to dairy farms under the scheme, he added.

The state government is also bearing 85 per cent of the insurance premium for livestock of diary farms while the rest 15 per cent will be paid by the owners under the scheme. Majhi said.

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, who also virtually joined the programme, said India topped milk production in the world by producing 239.30 million tonnes of milk in a year. Union Education Minister

Dharmendra Pradhan, State Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik, and Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia also attended the programme.



# **RISM concludes at RIE Bhubaneswar**

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: The Regional Institute Students Meet (RISM) 2024-25 at RIE Bhubaneswar concluded Monday with a series of exciting events, including intense sporting competitions, cultural performances, and a grand closing ceremony.

The final day kicked off with the volleyball boys' final, followed by the much-anticipated football boys' final. Players displayed remarkable determina-

tion and teamwork, with principal Prakash Chandra Agarwal offering encouragement and motivating them throughout both matches. Earlier in the meet, students had a chance to explore Odisha's cultural heritage through a field trip, enhancing their learning experience beyond the classroom.

School and Mass Education Minister Nitvananda Gond attended the event as the chief guest, and Additional Director General of the Press Information Bureau Akhil Kumar

### Mishra as the guest of honour. In his address, Minister Gond highlighted the significant role of today's youth in shaping the nation's future. He emphasised the importance of education, discipline, and self-belief, urging students to strive for excellence

and become responsible citizens. RIE Bhopal emerged as the overall winner of RISM 2024-25, receiving the championship trophy. The event concluded with the 4x100-meter Mixed Relay Race, symbolising unity and teamwork.

# **DEBYUG PARIVAR** LAUNCHED IN CITY

Bhubaneswar: With a vision to create opportunities for youth engagement and employment. a group of young individuals recently launched Debyug Parivar Ltd. The organisation was inaugurated by social activist and Debyug Foundation head Debabrata Navak, along with his team members. The idea for Debyug Parivar Ltd emerged during the team's social work under the Debyug Foundation. Recognising the challenges faced by unemployed individuals and aspiring entrepreneurs, the organisation aims to provide a platform for collaboration, guidance, and resource sharing. The initiative focuses on empowering youth through participation, business transparency, and collective entrepreneurship. The organisation's members will form a core committee to evaluate and implement ideas, fostering startups and small business ventures.

# 4 quintals of cannabis seized

Nirakarpur: Excise department sleuths from Tangi in Khurda district intercepted a Bolero near the railway level crossing here Monday, and seized approximately 4 quintals of cannabis from the vehicle. Acting on specific intelligence, the Excise squad intercepted the four-wheeler (OD-13R-5964) and conducted the search operation early Monday morning, resulting in the seizure of the ganja. The Excise sleuths also seized two mobile phones from the possession of the drug

The jumbo was later shifted back to Similipal. Forest officials and local communities Monday mourned Mahendra's death and described the tusker as a true "hero" as it was a protector of wildlife in Similipal. "Mahendra was not just an elephant, but a symbol of strength against poachers and timber smugglers. His bravery will always be remembered." a Forest department official said.

Prepare list of prisoners during Emergency, DMs told

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Immediately after the state government's announcement of providing ₹20,000 pension and other benefits to the people incarcerated in prisons during the Emergency, Home department Additional Chief Secretary Satyabrata Sahu Monday directed the District Magistrates (Collectors) to prepare a list of such persons in the state. At a high-level meeting held

under the chairmanship of Sahu, discussions were held threadbare on the preparation of an accurate list of those lodged in different jails of the



submit an application in the prescribed format to the Collector/DM of the concerned district along with relevant documents and names of three major co-detainees and an affidavit in support of his detention under MISA or DIR or DISIR during the emergen-

cy period. In the form, an applicant must write his/her name, fa-

#### the prescribed format.

On receipt of the application, it will be placed before the District Level Committee headed by the Collector and the DM with the SP and Jail Superintendent(s) of the District/Special Jail/Sub Jail as members to scrutinise the applications. The said committee will prepare a list of eligible beneficiaries and forward it, along with supporting documents, to the state Home department for consideration.

A state-level committee comprising Secretary (Home department), Secretary (Finance), Secretary (Law), Financial Adviser (Home), DG (Police) and DG (Prisons) will be constituted to consider the recommendations received from the respective Collectors. The Home department will take government orders for enhancement of benefits in favour of eligible applicants and take action in favour of eligible applicants for payment of pension based on the recommendations of the above committee.

# 'Protector' of timber, jumbo Mahendra, dies in Similipal

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Jan 13: A 66-year old tusker engaged in protecting timber and tigers in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Mayurbhanj district, has died during treatment, a senior Forest department official said Monday.

Mahendra, a trained jumbo. was brought to Similipal in December 2001 from the Rajiv Gandhi National Park in Karnataka, along with two female elephants Bhavani and Shobha.

The jumbo during its deployment in Similipal, had received bullet injuries in a Maoist attack in 2012. The elephant had also suf-

fered arrow hits by poachers in the forest. It, however, recovered and resumed work, an official said.

Mahendra was also deployed to guard the tigress Sundari. It was brought from Bandhaygarh Tiger Reserve in Madhva Pradesh to Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary in Angul district in 2019



# **CLASSIFIED** AFFIDAVIT

I, Sashi Rath, So Birabar Rath, Ro Plot No C130, Banaja Apartment, Unit 6, Ganaganagar, Bhubaneswar hereby declare by affidavit SL.No 1785 dt 07012025 that now onwards I shall be known as Sashi **Ranjan** Rath for all future purposes.

state under Maintenace of Internal Security Act (MISA), Defence of India Rules (DIR) and Defence and Internal Security of India Rules (DI-SIR) laws during the Emergency from 1975 to 1977, at the district level. Sahu also spoke to all Dis-

trict Magistrates (DMs) and SPs in this regard. The applicants will have to

ther's/husband's names, date of birth, address (both permanent and correspondence), Aadhaar number and attach a copy of Aadhaar card, bank account details, and period and place of detention. They should also place their passport size photograph, mention identity mark of the applicant and name of the Treasury willing to receive pension and submit a pledge in

On Sunday around 10.30pm the elephant, Mahendra, died in the Chahala camp.

The jumbo had stopped eating from Sunday morning and it died of old age-related weakness, STR Field Director Prakash Chand Gogineni said.

"Mahendra was under the treatment of veterinary doctor Abhilash Acharya. A post-mortem examination will be conducted," Gogineni said.

peddlers. The estimated market value of the seized cannabis is stated to be over ₹45 lakh. The driver of the vehicle, identified as Purnachandra Deo from Gaudasahi in Brahmagiri of Puri district, was arrested. Preliminary investigations revealed that the cannabis, packed in 16 sacks, was being transported from Shergarh to Brahmagiri. A case (119/25) has been registered and further investigation is underway.

# Odisha's women SHGs shine at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025

The event highlights the state's commitment to empowering women and promoting inclusive development

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Odisha's women-led self-help groups (SHGs) took center stage at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 in Bhubaneswar, displaying the state's vibrant craftsmanship and innovative sustainable practices. The event featured 41 curated stalls from SHGs across 16 districts and more than 30 blocks, showcasing Odisha's signature products to a global audience.

Among the standout displays were Koraput's Kotpad sarees, Nayagarh's terracotta art, and Cuttack's silver filigree. SHGs from Mayurbhanj presented beautiful Sabai grass crafts, while Nabarangpur exhibited tribal jewelry, drawing significant attention

Other highlights included Balasore's traditional lac dolls and bangles, Boudh and Subarnapur's Sambalpuri sarees, and Dhenkanal's bamboo crafts and Ganjam's brass metal art. In addition, handloom prod-

ucts from Khurda, and organic produce underlined the state's strides toward promoting sustainable livelihoods The millet-based delicacies

and organic produce featured by SHGs further highlighted



Odisha's strides in promoting sustainable livelihoods.

Many of these SHGs are from aspirational districts such as Malkangiri, Nabarangpur, and Rayagada as well as representing Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)

communities, reinforcing the government's commitment to inclusive development. The stalls offered an impressive collection of traditional handlooms, intricate handicrafts and organic produce, drawing many visitors

The exhibition garnered high praise from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and foreign delegates, who marveled at the creativity, craftsmanship, and eco-friendly nature of the products on display. Several SHGs, especially those producing millet-based snacks and tribal crafts, formed connections with international buyers, opening new avenues for global market access

In addition to the main event, smaller stalls were set up across Bhubaneswar and its outskirts, extending the celebration of Odisha's cultural heritage to local residents and tourists. These satellite stalls attracted more than 22,000 visitors over two days, creating a lively atmosphere and fostering cultural exchange.

The event's success was not just measured in footfall but also in sales, with SHGs collectively earning over ₹31 lakh. This highlights the role of Mission Shakti, which has been instrumental in promot ing women's economic empow erment and the preservation of Odisha's cultural heritage.

The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025 demonstrated the transformative power of women-led enterprises, showcasing how SHGs from even the remotest districts can access national and global markets. The event served as a powerful reminder of the potential for inclusive growth and sustainable development through women's entrepreneurship.

#### CLASSIFIED CON FOR ACI BOOKING AD ISEM OUR -51

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# state

# **Tricolour hoisted on Kanika Sands Island** was included in a larger sur-

Chandbali, Jan 13: Kanika Sands Island, located near the Dhamra estuary in Bhadrak district, has witnessed the hoisting of the national flag, marking a significant event amid the ongoing debate over its ownership. This action came Saturday after a coordinated effort involving the Indian Navy, state government officials, the Marine police, and local stakeholders, including the Sagar Mitra community. under the joint initiative of the Central and the state governments.

**Orissa**POS

TUESDAY | JANUARY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

The island, part of Bay of Bengal, has been a subject of neglect and ambiguity for years. Information about the

island's status has reached the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, prompting them to direct local authorities to gather further details and report to the government. This step is part of ongoing efforts to bring the island under government control and eventually develop it for public benefit.

The hoisting of the national flag, which took place at the Kanika Island was attended by various officials, including local police personnel and officers from the Indian Navy. Among those present were Krushna Chandra Jani, IIC, Dhamra Marine police station, and other notable figures, such as Sagar Mitra members Shrikrushna Behera, Bijay Majhi, and Ajay Behera.

been enforced to prevent noise

pollution during the survey.

This measure is intended to

ensure the smooth execution

of the census in a tranquil at-

The headcount of saltwater

crocodiles will be conducted

under the supervision of Sud-

hakar Kar, a noted crocodile

researcher, along with the

mosphere, he added.

Division.

Government of Odisha No.O-1232



The ceremony also included the installation of signboards featuring photographs of the Prime Minister of India and Chief Minister, symbolising the significance of the occasion. The Dhamra Marine PS IIC. Jani, mentioned that the national flag would also be hoisted here on the occasion of Republic Day.

A preparatory drill has been conducted at the site beforehand. Additionally, the hoisting of the national flag is aimed at alerting people not to settle on or encroach upon the island.

Kanika Island, which spans roughly 1,200 acres, is an uninhabited area, predominantly covered by saline forests over 450 acres of land. In 1987, it

# World will be safe if Hindus are protected, says Shankaracharya

Bhograi: Sanatan Dharma is the founda tion and essence of existence, with no alternative or substitute. Amid rising global 'adharma' (lawlessness) and ncreasing atrocities against followers of the Sanatan tradition. the lack of safety for adherents is deeply concern ing, Jagadguru Shankaracharva Swami Nishchalananda Saraswati of the Puri Govardhan Peeth voiced his concerns Monday during a press conference at the Ganga Sagar Makar Sankranti festival. He emphasised the need for true followers of Sanatan Dharma, righteous gurus, and patriotic individuals to unite against these threats. He condemned the atrocities faced by Hindus, especial ly in neighbouring countries such as Pa kistan and Bangladesh. At the ongoing Ganga Sagar Mela, more than 4.5 millio pilgrims have taken a holy dip so far. Authorities expect the numbers to rise. with Mahendra Bela marking the peak time for holv baths between 6:18am Tuesday and Wednesday morning. However, the event has been marred by tragedy, with reports of unnatural deaths of three people-two from Uttar Pradesh and one from Haryana.

# Croc census: Bhitarkanika shut for visitors from today prohibition on visitors has

PNN & AGENCIES

Kendrapara, Jan 13: The Bhitarkanika National Park will remain closed to tourists for eight days starting Tuesday to conduct the 2025 status survey of estuarine crocodiles and the mid-winter waterfowl census

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of the Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Division, Gopinath Sudarshan Yaday, stated that the

# Payal scripts history in Nat'l Para Archery Championship

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bolangir, Jan 13: A 17-yearold girl from Bolangir, who lost both her arms and legs after coming in contact with a high-voltage electric wire while working as a migrant labourer outside the state, has brought laurels for Odisha by becoming the champion at the Sixth National Para Archery Championship held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

DFO of the Rajnagar Mangrove (Forest) and Wildlife Competing in the Women's Compound Open (W-1) category, Payal secured her first gold medal January 11, Saturday and went on to claim her second gold medal in another

round January 12, Sunday, earning the championship title. She emerged victorious against noted para-athlete Sheetal Devi.

Payal is stated to be the first woman to become a national champion in para-athletics af-

ter such a life-altering injury. Payal, the daughter of Janata and Bijay Nag, is a resident of Jamunabahal village under Muribahal block of Bolangir district. Her life took a tragic turn in 2015 when she at the age of 8, accompanied her parents to Raipur in Chhattisgarh to work as migrant labourers. The incident occurred when she accidentally came in contact with an overhead high-voltage



No.O-1219

electric wire while pouring wa ter on an under-construction building, resulting in the loss of both her arms and legs.

vey along with other nearby

islands in Dhamra region.

However, due to various un-

resolved issues, it was not re-

corded in the land records of

The island has been at the

centre of a territorial dispute

between the governments

of West Bengal and Odisha

since 2005, when the Kolkata

Port Trust expanded its juris-

Despite a Supreme Court

ruling in 2013 that temporar-

ily resolved some of the is-

sues, the land records remain

unsettled to this day. Locals

demand the state government

must take necessary action to

bring the island into the reve-

Chandbali tehsil.

diction.

nue records.

After reports surfaced, the district administration enrolled her at the Parbati Giri Bal Niketan in Bolangir, where she continued her education and received support. During this time, her extraordinary talent

for painting also came to light. Payal's exceptional talent caught the attention of former District Collector Chanchal Rana, who facilitated her admission to an archery training centre in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir. Under the guidance of coach Kuldeep Vedwan, she underwent intensive archery training for about one and a half years. Recently, Payal qualified for the National Para Archery Championship

The former district collector has congratuled Payal while expressing hope for her contin ued success in future. Parbati Giri Bal Niketan secretary Sanskruti Pattnaik, remarked that Paval is now a matter of pride for Bolangir and all o Odisha.

Payal's incredible journey from adversity to becoming a national champion is a testa ment to her determination and resilience. She has now earned national recognition, bringing her community and state into the limelight.

#### Office of the Superintending Engineer, **Rural Works Division, Jharsuguda** Email : eerw\_jharsuguda@yahoo.co.in, Tel. : 9437255310 Bid Identification No. Online - SEJSG - 14 of 2024-25 NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR ROAD WORK IN ODISHA NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Name of the work Road works as per DTCN available in the www.tendersorissa.gov.in 2 Total No. of Work 04 (Four) Nos. Rs. 5.04 Lakh to 27.22 Lakh Estimated Cost



(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the above website Sd./-

Superintending Engineer

# EAST COAST RAILWAY

OIPR-25104/11/0015/2425

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF PART TIME **DENTAL SURGEON AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL, BHUBANESWAR** Employment Notice No. : 01/2025 (PTDS), Dated: 09.01.2025

 $\mathbf{O}$ निक्षेप बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम ( OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER Tender No. 47-KUR-TRD-OT-2024-25 DEPOSIT INSURANCE AND CREDIT GUARANTEE CORPORATION GC Name of Works EXECUTION OF OHE MODIFICATION WORK IN CONNECTION WITH CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROPOSED ROAD OVER BRIDGE (ROB) IN LIEU OF LEVEL CROSSING (LC) NO. 169 AT KM 383/15-17 IN BETWEEN DHANMANDAL-BYREE STATIONS ON HOWRAH (HWH)-**RURAL WORKS DIVISION, PATNAGARH** (मारतीय रिजर्व के संपूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहयोगी) Wholly owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of Ind E-Mail : eerw\_ptng@yahoo.in, Phone No. : 06658-222121 Unidentifiable and untraceable depositors in claims prepare e-Procurement Notice IFB Identification No.EEPTNG-Online-11/2024-25 STATIONS ON HOWRAH (HWH) VISAKHAPATNAM (VSKP) MAIN LINI UNDER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION O Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) settles Special Repair of Road & Bridge works prepared by liquidators in terms of provisions contained in Sections 17 and 18 o Total No. of work 4 (Fourteen) No. Road & Bridge works EAST COAST RAILWAY. Time for com DICGC Act, 1961. The claims of insured depositors who were marked unidentifial Advertised Value: ₹ 9,03,720.75, Earnes Money: ₹ 18,100.00, Period of Completion Approximate Estimated Cost )0 lakh to 42.37 lakh (depositors who were not paid due to non-availability of KYC documents at the time of Ade of Submission of tende Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersorissa.gov.in Money. sanction of main claim) /untraceable (depositors whose claims were sanctioned bu Bidding Start Date: 14.01.2025 ast date and time remain undisbursed and refunded to DICGC) by liquidators is provided for by DICGC **Bid Identification** Date & time of Date & time of tender closing: At 1300 hrs. on 28.01.2025. Procurement Officer bidding of seeking tender No. pening of tender Instructions have been issued to Registrar of Co-operative Societies and liquidator clarification 27.01.2025 upto Manual offers are not allowed against th tender, and any such manual offer receive 29.01.2025 at EEPTNG-Online 28.01.202 17.01.2025 at Executive Engineer, of banks (liquidated before December 31, 2014) to contact such depositors an upto 5.00 P.M R.W.Divn., Patnagarh - 11/2024-25 11.00 A.M. upto 5.00 Further details can be seen from the website <u>www.tendersorissa.gov.in</u> 5.00 P.M. 11.00 A.M. shall be ignored. Complete information including e-tende locuments are available in website www.ireps.gov.in Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only Sd./- Executive Engineer OIPR-25154/11/0015/2425 R.W. Division, Patnagarh Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (TRD) PR-874/P/24-25 Khurda Road R.W. Division, Jharsuguda **Bank of India E-AUCTION** SALE NOTICE बक आफ इंडिया Bank of India **BOI** बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Zonal Office: Bhubaneswar Zone, 1/1D, Star House, Jayadev Vihar, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751015, Ph.: 0674-2362249 E-Auction Sale Notice Under SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Where as the Bank acting through its Authorised Officer in exercise of its powers under-Section 13(4) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (SARFAESI) has decided to put up for E-auction of the following properties "As is where is". "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis for realization of the

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** 

**FAST COAST RAILWAY** 



by liquidators.

For details, please browse the website:

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2. 2020 2. 202 2. 202	1. 20918 PURI-INDORE F-1 1 Day 1100 hrs. 1130 hrs.	Borrower: M/s. Loknath Agency, At: Holding No.: 229, Ward P.S.: Purighat, Tahasil: Cuttack, Dist.: Cuttack, statutory dues)	Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer,	
<ul> <li>a) Harry Rue-Yoo MAGAR Riskess H / i down 1100 ms 100 ms 10</li></ul>		No. 25, Malgodown, College Square, Cullack, Oulsha - 755005 Odisha Standing in the name of Mr Baidvanath	OIPR-13205/11/0024/2425 P.H. Division, Bhubaneswar	
<ul> <li>4. 1288 PURE SWALMARE PURE SWAL</li></ul>	3. 18477 PURI - YOG NAGARI RISHIKESH F-1 4 Days 1100 hrs. 1150 hrs.	Parwat (Partner) Bounded by North Plot No 1 307 44 700/		
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11       2008       BHUBANESWARANA       R.4       1 Duy       100 https://initial.com/initicom/initicom/initicom/initial.com/initicom/initial.com/initicom/i		1) (For housing Loan & wortgage Loan) Borrower. As 0.060 Dos. 2) Khota No : 620/405 Blot No :		
12       22895       BHUBANESWARAND WHAR (T)       F-1       1098       1200 hts       320 hts         12       17015       BHUBANESWARAND WHAR (T)       F-1       1098       100 hts       320 hts       52,48,700/       1       45,20396, Plot No.: 2063/2617, Plot Area:       52,48,700/       1       467,dt.02,12.24. The Divisional Forest Officer, Keonjhar         15       2917       PUREBICKER       R-1       1098       1300 hts       340 hts       500 hts are At: 2063, Barabati Housing Colony, Taral, P.O.: Jagaptar, Nacha, C, 6970 Sqft, Muoza: Taral, P.S.: Tangi (No.: 2       72, Tahasii: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist:       72, Tahasii: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 160, Dist:       72, Tahasii: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist:       72, Tahasii: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist:       72, Tahasii: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist:       72, Tahasii: Tangi-Choud		Wi. Sichartia Kumar Nanua, 3/0. Wr. Billou Binar Nanua / 2062/2622 Blot Aroo: Ao 0.040 Doo 2) Khoto		
13.       Totis       BHUBANESWAR-SECUNCERARAD       F-1       Tobay       1100 hrs       1330 hrs.         14.       1442       PUR-BIXANER       F-1       Tobay       1100 hrs       1300 hrs.       6,970 Sqft, Mouza: Tarol, P.S.: Tangi (No.:       7       75,98,700/       7       75,000/       75,0000/       75,000/ <td>12. 22805 BHUBANESWAR-ANAND VIHAR (T) F-1 1 Day 1100 hrs. 1320 hrs.</td> <td>Co-Borrower, wis. Eina Dash, W/o. Wi. Sidhahna Kuhar Narida, Na : 600/006. Diet No : 0062/0617. Diet Aroan</td> <td></td>	12. 22805 BHUBANESWAR-ANAND VIHAR (T) F-1 1 Day 1100 hrs. 1320 hrs.	Co-Borrower, wis. Eina Dash, W/o. Wi. Sidhahna Kuhar Narida, Na : 600/006. Diet No : 0062/0617. Diet Aroan		
14.       14/25       PUREDURG       R-1       7 Days       100 hts       1300 hts         15.       20472       PUREBURG       R-1       100 hts       1300 hts       100 hts       1300 hts       100 hts       1300 hts       100 hts       1300 hts       100 hts<		Dourale AL 2000, Databat Housing Colorly, Faiol, F. O. Dagapur, As 0.000 Days. Total Dist Array: As 0.160 Days		
15.       20472       PUR-BKANER       R-1       10ay       110a hts       130 hts       330 hts       350 hts       ₹ 50,000/-       Candidates for re-engagement of retired Engineering personnel (Retired E./A. E./A		Dist. Outdow, Odishu 704021, 27 (101 Odish Oreday) Dontolicit.	Division invites further Applications, from interested	
101       Lass       Briddwardsawkersuker under black start       100 into its		S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda / Guarantor: Mrs. Lira Dash. W/o: 72), Tahasil: Tangi-Choudwar No.: 166, Dist.: ₹ 50,000/-	candidates for re-engagement of retired Engineering	
18       1280       BHUBANESWARLOKMANYATILAK(T)       R.1       2 Days       1100 hs       1420 hs         18       1287       PURI-ANAND VIHAR (T)       F.1       3 Days       1100 hs       1420 hs       Composition		Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, Both are At: 2063. Barabati Housing Cuttack, Odisha, Standing in the name of		
Total Dues: ₹55,88,656.14 + interest,costs and expenses, less       Bounded by East: Pananga Narayan Khatua, West: Road, North: Vendee & Namita Mohanty, South: Vendee & Panchanan Khatua       Total Dues: ₹55,88,656.14 + interest,costs and expenses, less       Bounded by East: Pananga Narayan Khatua, West: Road, North: Vendee & Namita Mohanty, South: Vendee & Panchanan Khatua         20. 12215       PURI-NAND VIHAR (T)       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs. 1440 hrs. 1440 hrs.       1440 hrs. 1440 hrs. 1440 hrs.       1440 hrs. 1440 hrs.       1440 hrs. 1440 hrs. 1440 hrs.       1440 hrs. 1440 hrs.		Colony, Tarol, P.O.: Jagatpur, Dist.: Cuttack, Odisha-754021 / Mr. Sidhartha Kumar Nanda, S/o: Mr. Binod Bihari Nanda,		
20.       12815       PURLANAND VIHAR (1)       F-1       4 Days       1100 hrs.       1440 hrs.       any part amount repaid.       Vendee & Namita Mohanty, South: Vendee & Panchanan Khatua       applications are also invited from Candidates naving         21.       18463       BHUBANESWAR-BEGALURU CITY       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1440 hrs.       Date & Time of E-Auction: 15.02.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.       B.E./ B. Tech in Givil Engineering with minimum 5 years'         22.       18126       PURL-NOURKELA       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1510 hrs.       Lsto bar       With unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.       B.E./ B. Tech in Givil Engineering with minimum 5 years'       experience in Givil Engineering with minimum 5 years'         24.       1020       BHUBANESWAR-BEGALURU CITY       F-1       100 hrs.       1510 hrs.       Last Date & Time of E-Auction: 15.02.2025 trot 10.0 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.       B.E./ B. Tech in Givil Engineering with minimum 5 years'         25.       12146       PURL-LokANNA TILAK(T)       R-1       1 Day       1100 hrs.       1520 hrs.       Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       10.1.2025 (Tues Alay at 11:00 A.M. in the conference hall of Keonjhar Forest Division. The application form along with detailed role and responsibilities shall be Scurity Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.       The sale shall be subject to		Total Dues: ₹55.88.656.14 + interest costs and expenses loss Rounded by East: Pananga Naravan Khatua West: Road North:		
21.       18463       BHUBANESWAR-BEGALURU CITY       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1450 hrs.       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1450 hrs.       with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.       BLE/ B.Tech in Civil Engineering with minimum 5 years'         22.       18126       PUR-ROURKELA       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1500 hrs.       with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.       BLE/ B.Tech in Civil Engineering with minimum 5 years'         23.       18410       PUR-ROURKELA       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1500 hrs.       Ext Date & Time of E-Auction: 15.02.2025 prom 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 PM.       BLE/ B.Tech in Civil Engineering with minimum 5 years'         24.       1020       BHUBANESWAR-CSMT MUMBAI       R-1       1 Day       1100 hrs.       1500 hrs.       Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       21.01.2025 (Tuesday) at 11:00 A.M. in the conference hall of Keonjhar Forest Division. The application form appointment of the authorised officer         10.01 START DATE : 17.01.2025 (for SL No. 01 to 25), LOT END DATE : 17.01.2025 (for SL No. 01 to 25), SL No. 10 to 25), SL No. 10 to 25).       The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the save exclusion of the above e-Auction Notice is available in website : www.keonjhar.odisha.gov.in/       The sale shall be subject to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mor				
22.       18126       PURI-ROURKELA       F-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1500 hrs.       with unlimited extension of 10 (Ten) minutes each.         23.       18410       PURI-SALIMAR       R-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1500 hrs.       Constrained and the provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       Constrained and the provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       Constrained and the provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       Constrained and the provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       Constrained and the provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       Constrained and the provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 read with the security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.       Constrained and the provided to the provided to the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor(s) of the aforesaid loan account for settlement of the above mentioned date.       Constrained and the provided in https://baanket.com       Constrained and responsibilities and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in htttps://baanket.com       Consteat and	21. 18463 BHUBANESWAR-BEGALURU CITY F-1 7 Days 1100 hrs. 1450 hrs.	Date & Time of E-Auction: 15.02.2025 From 11.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M.		
23.       18410       PURI-SHALIMAR       R-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1510 hrs.         24.       11020       BHUBANESWAR-CSMT MUMBAI       R-1       7 Days       1100 hrs.       1510 hrs.       Last Date & Time for submission of EMD & Documents: 15.02.2025 upto 4.00 P.M.       Walk-in-interview has been rescheduled to be held on 21.01.2025 (Tuesday) at 11:00 A.M. in the conference appointment of the authorised officer         25.       12146       PURI-LOKMANYA TILAK(T)       R-1       1 Day       1100 hrs.       1530 hrs.       Inspection will be provided to the prospective bidders on any working day before 14.02.2025 with prior appointment of the authorised officer       Valk-in-interview has been rescheduled to be held on 21.01.2025 (Tuesday) at 11:00 A.M. in the conference appointment of the authorised officer         LOT STATUS:       New in Draft Catalogue (or Sl. No. 01 to 25).       The sale shall be subject to the terms and conditions and provisions prescribed in the SARFAESI Act 2002 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.       Www.keonjhar.odisha.gov.in/         Complete information of the above e-Auction Notice is available in website:       Www.keonjhar.odisha.gov.in/       Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer         St. Divisional Commercial Manager.       Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer       Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer       Sd./- Divisional Forest Officer			experience in Govt. Sector or Private field projects. The	
24.       11020       BHUBANESWAR-CSMT MUMBAI       R-1       7 Days       1100 hrs. 1520 hrs.       1100			Walk-in-interview has been rescheduled to be held on	
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# power post



## **FOCUS WORK-LIFE BALANCE**

The first principle of true teaching is that nothing can be taught.

# **Argentinean Lessons**

SRI AUROBINDO

rgentina stands out as a glaring example of how the common man is affected when a political outsider subscribing to extreme-right rhetoric assumes power. In his first 12 months, the country's President Javier Milei has introduced drastic economic measures sparking protests since they have only augmented the distress of a population already plagued by economic ills. It may not be a coincidence that the first foreign leader to meet Donald Trump after his victory last November was Milei. He has been invited to the inauguration of the new President of the United States of America, Trump. This justifies Milei's rightist credentials beyond any doubt. Milei wanted support from Trump to shore up the floundering economy for which his policies are responsible, while Trump needed an avid follower from Latin America.

Milei had declared a war on bureaucrats, imposed drastic public spending cuts and sweeping deregulation of Latin America's second-largest economy. The outcome has been one of unmitigated disasters. A recession has already plunged more than half the country into poverty within the first six months of 2024. It is an irony of history that Milei did not so much win the last election as the previous government gifted victory to him. It is worth remembering that when voters gave their verdict in October 2023, monthly inflation stood at about 8 per cent. This caused so much anger and frustration with the established parties among the people, who feared an uncertain future, that they were looking for a change of leadership outside the ambit of known political outfits. Milei skilfully exploited their sentiments. Soon after his victory monthly inflation far surpassed the level of the earlier government and soared to 25 per cent. However, it dropped back to about 3 per cent in November. One is persuaded to believe that Milei's public sector cuts were painful but necessary. Milei also devalued the peso, making domestic prices go up. However the later situation seems to have improved. His election campaign centred around replacing peso with dollar. There are reports of a very high social cost attached to Milei's austerity programme of slashing services and jobs. Many among the populace, just like India, are unable to afford health insurance, further straining underfunded public hospitals. Violent protests against these measures were witnessed in Buenos Aires last summer. Though the economy is showing signs of tentatively recovering from Milei's shock therapy, reports suggest more unrest is likely if living conditions do not improve in the next few months.

As things stand now, Milei's ability to prevent a backlash depends on external factors, which is why, experts say, he rushed to Trump to seek his blessings even before he could start his presidency. For, Argentina's \$44 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is running out and the government is seeking additional funds to ease currency controls without bringing about further devaluation of the peso. Such an eventuality may again cause inflation and damage Milei's popularity rating ahead of key congressional elections. The IMF, despite its support to Milei's measures so far, is wary of its dollars being used not for the purpose for which they are given. Since its 2018 financial crisis, Argentina has relied on IMF bailouts, while loans from Beijing have stood it in good stead. It has become Latin America's largest recipient of Chinese commercial funds. The problem is this dependency on China may prove counterproductive for Argentina as Trump is known for his insistence on disengaging from China

# WISDOM CORNER

If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it 66 is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU



NS, as the 60-year-old L&T CMD SN Subrahmanyan is known within the company, has raised quite a firestorm. He is not known to be the headline-seeking CEO living the high life, as some upstart CEOs tend to be. Here's a head honcho who chairs a conglomerate with a glorious history of some 80 years, with more than 50,000 people operating across 50 countries and with an annual turnover of over ₹2.2 lakh crore in 2024. It is almost unbelievable that such a senior leader would make the remarks of the kind he indeed has in a video that has now leaked - that, if he had his way, he would make employees work on Sundays since the other option, in his words, is to sit at home and stare at your wife. Who would want to do that! Never mind that many women are a proud part of the L&T success story, so that SNS comes across very poorly in more ways than one. Deepika Padukone is right in pointing out that the attempted recovery from this sorry mess only made it worse. Instead of making light of the remarks, which included a prescription of putting in 90 hours a week, the later attempt at explaining it as a call to nation building points to the insidiousness of

the remarks. Was SNS hiding

behind or doing one better than

the obnoxious call of IT leaders

like NR Narayana Murthy ("sa-

tanic" in the words of The Cen-

tre of Indian Trade Unions) in

all seriousness seeking 70-hour

weeks? The L&T explanation

only makes it more likely for

people to conclude that the

remarks could not have been

Even if we allow for the view

that SNS is known for these

kinds of detours and doesn't

really mean it, there are larg-

er issues that come to the spot-

light on what CEOs in India

can get away with. The cases

banter that misfired.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Lekha Rattanani

THE CASES

**THEN OFFER** 

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LIGHT NOW AND

LOT MORE THAT

**IS WRONG AT** 

**INDIA INC** 



Even if we allow for the view that SNS is known for these kinds of detours and doesn't really mean it, there are larger issues that come to the spotlight on what CEOs in India can get away with

that come to light now and then offer but a tiny peek into a lot more that is wrong at India Inc. This is not how the strength of "India's Yuva Shakti will make India a developed nation," to quote the Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaking just this weekend at the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025'. These CEOs may want the political leadership to think they are singing the tune of the day but it's in the interest of the political leadership to be wary of such pretence. The disdain for Murthy and now SNS among employees and in general Gen Z is to be heard and seen (who will measure this important variable?) to be believed.

To the other issues that must be discussed so that all CXOs, not just SNS, are appropriately held to account and where required restrained by strong regulatory measures. Consider that SNS was paid a total remuneration of ₹51.05 crore for FY24, which is 534.57 times the median remuneration at L&T. It represents growth of 43.11% over what was paid to him last year. The remuneration is the highest of all employees, some 40% higher than the second highest paid employee at L&T, who is

the President & CFOR Shankar Raman. How are employees who on average get onefive-hundredth of this meant to react to the comments of SNS?

In this context, the first issue on the agenda for a "developed" India should be to put a ceiling on the amount that CXOs pay themselves, never mind the guardrails or formalities that they don't decide their salaries and that the Board does. In the Indian context, these formalities have not worked well enough, partly because our company Boards in themselves are often pliant and work as birds of a feather flocking together. a chosen few keeping themselves in the seat. Note that in the developed economy of Denmark, the home country of the L&T founders, the late Henning Holck-Larsen and Soren Toubro, the variable remuneration of executive directors comprises on average 37% of the fixed, according to a Deloitte report. In the case of the L&T CMD, it is 980% (salary of ₹3.6 crore, commission of ₹35.28 crore, as reported by L&T for 2024). Without grudging these packages, can it be fairly claimed that the performance of the group (the

basis on which commission is usually calculated) is because of the leadership being provided? And how does L&T calculate the losses on account of SNS' remarks, given that many talented candidates will now think twice about joining the company.

The next significant question that comes up is the complete absence of dissent in India's corporates. The language of sustainability, the appeal to innovativeness and the claim of DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) policies all ring hollow when it becomes clear that no one in Indian corporations, including in the biggest and the so-called best, challenges the boss. Why? The simple answer is that questions are not asked because questions are not encouraged, building a culture where hierarchy rules, the boss is to be always deemed right, and creativity almost by definition cannot thrive. The inner collapse of L&T is seen from the fact that no one challenged SNS in the undated video that has now become the cause of his misery. The problem is not that the video leaked. The problem is that SNS was not asked how he could even make such a statement. He got away for the moment, as our CEOs often do, only for the world outside to pull him down.

For India to harness the power and thinking of a new generation of leaders, the older lot will have to learn to live with more questions, with less judgement and some deeper realisation that they are not quite as extraordinary as they may imagine themselves to be. Since there is no evidence that is likely to happen anytime soon, the Indian establishment must act with a new set of regulations to bring the house to order.

> The writer is the Managing **Editor of The Billion Press.** ©THE BILLION PRESS

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning.



# AI alone won't save the planet

his year's annual meet-ing of the World Economic Forum in Davos, where participants will address the theme of "Collaboration for the Intelligent Age," comes at a critical juncture for the planet. Ecosystems are straining under the pressure of climate change, and the interconnected cycles that maintain freshwater availability, soil moisture. ocean health, and plant growth are spinning out of balance at an alarming pace At least 420 million hectares of forest globally have been lost to deforestation since 1990. causing biodiversity loss to accelerate and fueling climate volatility. Freshwater resources have declined so precipitously - owing to rising temperatures, groundwater mismanagement. saltwater intrusion, pollution, land degradation, and increased population density - that demand is predicted to exceed supply by 40% by 2030. And wildlife populations in freshwater habitats fell by 85% between 1970 and 2020. The paradox is that we continue to degrade the systems that sustain life on Earth despite knowing more about their fragility than ever before. In the search for solutions, we

often look to technology - especially artificial intelligence - as a panacea. But AI alone cannot save the planet. Instead, we must ensure that AI complements, rather than replaces,

the Arctic identify new fishing grounds amid changing climate conditions. But indigenous populations

are not the only ones with valu-

able insights. Local communi-

should be at the heart of global strategies for biodiversity conservation and climate mitigation and adaptation. Policymakers can take steps to bridge the gap between digital innovators and local environmental stewards. Businesses can align their investments with nature-positive goals and share any resulting knowledge. Innovators can create accessible tools that take into account cultural contexts and input from communities - turning top-down interventions into agile, responsive, and collaborative efforts. When political leaders and executives convene in Davos, they must acknowledge that technology is not a cure-all for climate change and biodiversity loss. Without human guidance - bolstered by our capacity for empa thy, cultural understanding, and ethical reasoning - it will be impossible to unlock AI's potential. In the Intelligent Age, coupling advanced tools with lived experience will enable us to transcend the zero-sum mentality that pits people against machines.

#### EINSTEIN

The greatest day in your life and mine is when we take total responsibility for our attitudes. That's the day we truly grow up. JOHN C. MAXWELI

# THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1526:** The Treaty of Madrid was signed by the Habsburg emperor Charles V (Charles I of Spain) and his prisoner Francis I, king of France, who had been captured during the Battle of Pavia in February 1525 and held prisoner until the conclusion of the treaty, when he was allowed to return to France
- **1784:** The Continental Congress ratified the Peace of Paris (1783) with Great Britain, which recognized the independence of the United States.
- 1900: Premiere of Giacomo Puccini's opera Tosca. The opera Tosca—a psychological drama of deceit and doubt composed by Giacomo Puccini, one of the greatest exponents of operatic realism-made its world premiere in Rome's Costanzi Theatre on this day in 1900.
- **1943:** Churchill, Roosevelt and de Gaulle meet to discuss WWII strategy. During the secret Casablanca Conference, the leaders agreed that the allied forces would accept nothing less than the unconditional surrender of the Axis powers.
- **1953:** Tito becomes President of Yugoslavia. The authoritarian leader became a unifying symbol in his country and is still known by many today.
- **1967:** The Summer of Love is launched with the Human Be-In. San Francisco was the epicenter of the Hippie Revolution, which soon influenced cultures around the world.
- 1997: Greek archaeologists announced that they had discovered an ancient site in Athens that may have been Aristotle's Lyceum.



### **PULL THE CAR**

An out-of-towner drove his car into a ditch in a desolated area. Luckily. a local farmer came to help with his big strong horse named Buddy. He hitched Buddy up to the car and yelled, "Pull, Nellie, pull." Buddy didn't move. Then the farmer hollered, "Pull,

Buster, pull." Buddy didn't respond. Once more the farmer commanded. "Pull, Jennie, pull." Nothing. Then the farmer nonchalantly said, "Pull, Buddy, pull." And the horse

Yana Gevorgyan

**THE PARADOX IS THAT WE CONTINUE TO DEGRADE THE** SYSTEMS THAT **SUSTAIN LIFE ON** EARTH DESPITE **KNOWING MORE** ABOUT THEIR **FRAGILITY THAN EVER BEFORE** 

human capabilities to realise its full potential.

While AI models can identify patterns, they often use incomplete or biased data, and thus lack important context. This is where "augmented intelligence" comes in. Augmented intelligence combines powerful algorithms with human knowledge and lived experience to ensure that these advanced tools account for cultural, economic, and ecological considerations.

For example, indigenous communities have learned how to manage resources sustainably by tracking nature's cycles and observing the environment for centuries. This expertise can help reveal subtle trends that data fail to capture, ensuring that technology serves real-world needs. Using both indigenous insights and scientific data has provided a more accurate picture of polar bear populations in Canada's Northwest Territories, while an AI-driven model that factored in such traditional knowledge has helped Inuit communities in

ties and private-sector actors. from smallholder farmers to multinational corporations, accumulate site-specific data when responding to droughts, adopting regenerative agriculture practices, investing in biodiversity projects, and decarbonizing their supply chains. Sharing this knowledge, which reflects cultural traditions and economic realities and is enriched by human judgment, strengthens the data on which AI models rely. Humans and machines learn from each other, creating a feedback loop that leads to more effective solutions.

Greater openness fosters trust, which in turn accelerates the adoption and refinement of AI tools. Before long, the willingness to share data, insights, and innovations will be seen as a mark of leadership and prestige, rather than a risk. Those who advocate data sharing will facilitate collective progress, demonstrating the cooperation and wisdom needed to guide us toward a safe and healthy planet. intelligence Augmented

The writer is Director of the Group on Earth **Observations Secretariat.** ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

## Making biopics

Sir, Film makers rush to cash-in on a popular, or unpopular, personality's fame to produce biopics or biographical films. These non-fictional films in the usual course should have evoked considerable curiosity. However, after "Gandhi" by Richard Attenborough, only a couple of biopics have turned heads in India. Biopics require extraordinary acting skills to do justice to the film's main protagonist, and casting has always been a challenge. The director's deft handling of the characters and his ability to maximise research are integral to the biopics. Ironically, the more the lead actor imitates the central role, the more the artificiality that is infused into the film. Obviously, when a politician is the centre-piece, the director's task will be herculean because knives will be out to dissect his intentions. Biographies, Mark Twain said, and it can apply to biopics as well, "are like clothes and buttons of an individual, the biography of the person himself cannot be written.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA

## Heavenly voice

Sir, He came, he sang, he conquered our hearts and he has left leaving behind melodies, memories and moments that every music lover and everyone who loves music and melody will cherish forever and ever. P Jayachandran is truly a legend - a 'bhavagayagan' - the emotional singer as he is called, who with his heavenly voice could mesmerise listeners and tune their hearts and souls in whichever way he wanted. He had a magical voice that could render soulful renditions that beautifully expressed emotions such as love, longing, and devotion. The singer, who recorded over 16.000 songs in Malavalam, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi sang songs that had repeated value. He sang from his heart that reached soothingly to the hearts of the listeners. A recipient of National Film Award he also won the Kerala government's J C Daniel award , Kerala State Film Awards five times and Tamil Nadu State Film Awards twice, besides an infinite number of awards for his contribution to music.

*M Pradyu*, KANNUR

are most welcome to contribute letters (100 words), articles and columns (between 600-1000 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: dit@orissapost.com



B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

the car out of



motorist was most appreciative and very curious. He asked the farmer why he called his horse by the wrong name three times. The farmer said, "Oh, Buddy is blind, and if he thought he was the only one pulling, he wouldn't even try!"







Readers of Orissa Post

(0)







# 1.65 crore take dip as Maha Kumbh begins

TWO STATES

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahakumbh Nagar (UP), Jan 13: The fog was thick, the cold intense and the waters freezing as the Maha Kumbh, the world's largest gathering, began Monday with 1.65 crore people taking a dip in the Sangam in their quest for 'moksha' and the belief it will cleanse their sins

Spirituality and astrology, culture and religion, tradition and modern-day technology... it all fused into one in the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati in Prayagraj.

More than 40 crore people, including many from abroad, Besides, seers claim the celestial permutations and combinathe occasion even more auspicious for the faithful.

And so it was that a sea of people converged in Prayagraj for the fabled Maha Kumbh. Ash smeared sadhus from their abode in the Himalayas, the religious from across the country and abroad and those just curious to take in the sights and sounds of the biggest religious spectacle of all, the Maha Kum-

Thirteen Akharas of seers from different sects are participating in the Maha Kumbh.

And as the famed mela formally began in the darkness of pre-dawn on the occasion of 'Paush Purnima' to the sound of conch shells and bhajans, the excitement was palpable in the sprawling Sangam area as devotees -- mostly in groups -- walked towards the waters chanting "Jai Ganga Maiyya", "Har Har Mahadev" and "Jai Shri Ram"

Former US Army sol-

### **DEVOTION, TECH AND TRADITION FUSE IN SANGAM**

are expected over 45 days in the mela being held after 12 years. tions for the event are taking place after 144 years, making

bh beckoned them all.

Prayagraj, and the spiritual vibes are extraordinary." "I practise yoga in Brazil, I have come here for 'moksha'. This one is very special, once in 144 years. India is like the spiritual height of the world. Sanatan Dharma is my mission of life and it changed my life, it changed

dier-turned-ascetic Michael joined the Juna Akhara and is now known as 'Baba Mokshapuri'. Sharing his

journey transformation, he said. "I was an ordinary man with a family and career. But I real-

of 50 lakh to 1 crore devotees at any

ised that nothing in life is permanent, so I embarked on a quest for salvation. This is my first Maha Kumbh in

given time

votion and culture. 'The Maha Kumbh embodies

India's timeless spiritual heritage and celebrates faith and harmony," he said. A group of women from Uttar

Pradesh's Siddharth Nagar was busy singing folk songs. And there was a team of YouTubers from South Korea capturing various shots of the Maha Kumbh as was a team from Japan. Contingents from states across India were seen too at various ghats of Prayagraj.

Appreciating the arrange ments made for the devotees, Kailash Narayan Shukla from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh said, "Good arrangements were made for the pilgrims and we had no problems in taking the holy dip.

Given the massive numbers of people, there were those who got inevitably separated from their groups - a recall in another era of a favourite Hindi film trope of siblings getting separated in the Kumbh Mela. The times have changed, however.

The Uttar Pradesh government implemented several crowd-control initiatives, including 'Bhula-Bhatka' camps, police assistance centres and deployment of personnel on specially constructed watchtowers.

Within the first couple of hours itself, more than 250 individuals got 'lost' but were 'found' thanks to efforts by the administration, officials said.

Ajay Goyal, a pilgrim from Delhi, shared his experience of being separated for an hour. "Just before we got separat-

ed, we had joked about how this often happens at Kumbh Melas in old Bollywood films. Lucki ly, we were reunited within the same Mela itself." Goval said.

Sharing the numbers on X. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in a post on X, "On the first bathing festival today, 1.50 crore Sanatan believers earned the holy benefit of bathing in the uninterrupted and clean Triveni." It is a massive logistical exercise for the government.

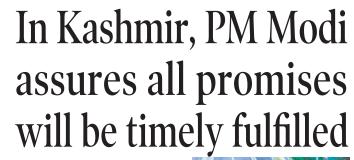
Mahakumbh Nagar is the world's largest temporary city, accommodating 50 lakh to 1 crore devotees at any given time, Adityanath said.

The first of the 'shahi snans' royal baths, takes place Tuesday, Makar Sankranti. when the numbers taking a dip in the waters are expected to rise. The last of the 'snans' will be on Mahashivratri February 26.

The origins of the Kumbh Mela go back in the folds of time.

The Rigveda speaks of a divine event called the "Sagar Manthan" or churning of the cosmic ocean, which is considered the genesis of the Maha Kumbh Mela, according to the website kumbh.gov.in.

Legend has it that during this cosmic churning, a pot (Kumbh) containing the elixir of immortality (amrita) emerged. The celestial struggle for possession led to a battle that spanned 12 days, equivalent to 12 human years. Drops of the nectar fell at four locations, Prayagraj, Ujjain, Nashik and Haridwar, where the Kumbh Mela is celebrated.



**OrissaPO** 

TUESDAY | JANUARY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR

The prime minister said h

wishes Jammu and Kashmir

to be beautiful and prosper-

ous. "There is an atmosphere

of peace in Jammu and Kash

mir and we have seen its effect

on tourism. Kashmir is writing

a new saga of development to-

21st century is scripting a new

chapter of development, he said

and remarked that the region is

regaining its identity as Para

dise on Earth, leaving behind

Modi said the Kashmir Val

ley will soon be connected by

train and there is enthusiasm

He also paid tributes to the

seven people who were killed in

a terror attack near the tunnel

After inaugurating the proj

ect, the prime minister went

inside the tunnel and inter-

acted with project officials. He

also met construction workers

who worked meticulously amid

harsh conditions to complete

He thanked the labourers

who worked hard and also put

their lives at stake for the devel

opment of Jammu and Kashmir

the tunnel.

and India.

here October 20 last year.

among people about it.

the difficult days of the past.

Jammu and Kashmir of the

day," he said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AMMU &

**KASHMIR** 

Sonamarg (J&K), Jan 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday asserted that he would keep promises he had made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, a statement seen as an oblique reference to the demand for restoration of statehood voiced strongly by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

"Yeh Modi hai. wada karta hai toh nibhata hai. Har kaam ka ek samay hai, aur sahi samay pe sahi kaam bhi hone wale hai (This is Modi who keeps his promises. And right things are going to happen at the right time)," the prime minister said at a large public meeting where he shared the stage with Abdullah after inaugurating a strategic 6.4-km tunnel between Sri-

nagar with Sonamarg. Terming Kashmir as India's crown, Prime Minister Modi also said the dream of 'Viksit Bharat' will be achieved only when this crown is bedecked with jewels.

Speaking earlier at the function, Abdullah pressed for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir as promised by the prime minister before the assembly elections in September last year and said, "My heart believes that you will fulfil this promise soon."

"You also promised (assembly) elections within four months and you stayed true to your words," he said.

Without making a direct reference to the issue of statehood, Modi assured the gathering that all promises would be kept and the right things would happen at the right time.



the way I see the world, my

family. Jai Shri Ram," added

a devotee from Brazil.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Sonamarg (J&K), Jan 13: Braving sub-zero temperature, thousands of people Monday thronged this picturesque village in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district to witness the inauguration of 6.5-km Z-Morh tunnel by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

They started assembling



Infratech in January 2020, which had emerged as the lowest bidder.

The foundation stone for the Rs 2,716.90 crore project was laid in October 2012 by CP Joshi, then Minister for Surface Transport during the UPA II government, in the presence of his then cabinet colleague Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah and Congress MP Rahul





for this opportunity to dive into the sacred river

here at the sacred point. I am fulfilled with bliss," she said. In his message on

"I am feel-

the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X that Maha Kumbh brings together countless people in a sacred confluence of faith, de-

shortly after dawn at the venue of Modi's public meeting to see the dream project of Sonamarg hill resort along Srinagar-Leh national highway becoming an all weather destination.

Union Ministers Nitin Gadkari and Jitendra Singh, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah were among prominent persons in attendance.

This was Modi's first visit to Jammu and Kashmir after the formation of Abdullah-led National Conference government in October last year.

Immediately after reaching here, Modi, clad in a hooded waterproof black jacket, cut the ribbon to inaugurate the tunnel, which was welcomed with thunderous applause and high-pitch sloganeering by the gathering.

The people had come to the venue from villages including Sonamarg, Kullan, Gagangir, Gund and Kangan.

The work on the Z-Morh tunnel began in May 2015. It took almost a decade to complete the project as the Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), the initial concessionaire for executing the project, stopped work in 2018 due to financial stress.

The project was retendered in 2019 and awarded to APCO

Gandhi. The tunnel was initially expected to be completed by 2016-2017

The visibly excited locals termed this new project as a path-breaker for the tourism industry, considered to be the backbone of Jammu and Kashmir's economy.

"We are happy that this tunnel has been inaugurated by our prime minister. Now there will be 12-month connectivity with Sonmarg which will benefit the tourism sector in a big way. Everybody will benefit from this tunnel," Haji Wazir Mohammad, a resident of Kangan, told PTL

A police barricade is placed to manage the crowd even as devotees jostle to reach the Sangam, on the first day of Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, Monday

# Soldiers at Siachen glacier now have high-speed net

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 13: Soldiers posted at Siachen glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, can now enjoy high-speed internet services, the Army said Monday.

"Connectivity at the highest battlefield of the world. Fire and Fury Corps, in collaboration with Jio Telecom, successfully installed the first-ever 5G mobile tower on the Siachen glacier." the Army's Fire & Fury Corps said in a post on X. This indomitable feat is dedi-

cated to our brave soldiers who are deployed in challenging conditions. Fire and Furv Signallers and Siachen warriors overcame harsh terrain and extreme temperatures below -40 degrees Celsius to install the 5G BTS at North Glacier, it said.

Reliance Jio said it has successfully deployed plug-and-play pre-configured equipment at a



forward post, leveraging its indigenous full-stack 5G technology.

This achievement was made possible in coordination with Army Signallers from planning to multiple training sessions, system pre-configuration, and comprehensive testing, the company's spokesperson said.

The company said the Indian Army was pivotal in managing logistics, including airlifting Jio's equipment to Siachen Glacier. This collaboration ensured connectivity at 16,000 feet in the Karakoram range, an area characterised by extreme

conditions, it added.

# Hashtag 'Ekta Ka Maha Kumbh' tops social media trends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahakumbh Nagar (UP), Jan 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Aditvanath Monday hailed the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj as "Maha Kumbh of Unity", after which the message resonated widely on social media with hashtag 'Ekta\_Ka\_Maha\_Kumbh' trending on the opening day of the Mela.

Users started sharing posts

with the hashtag 'Ekta\_Ka\_ Maha\_Kumbh' in Hindi on social media platforms X and Instagram actively right since morning on Paush Purnima Snan Parv to celebrate the event's spiritual and cultural significance. By afternoon, the hashtag topped trending charts, showcasing widespread public participation and the collective spirit of unity symbolised by this historic gathering.

Thousands of users actively shared photos, videos and information related to the event,



sparking widespread engagement.

Several hashtags on Maha Kumbh were used in the posts but #Ekta Ka Maha Kumbh stood out as the most prominent one.

By 3.30pm, nearly 70,000 users had used the hashtag, sharing their experiences of the massive crowd during the Sangam Snan and the deep spiritual significance of the Sanatan faith

Adityanath also joined the conversation and his use of the hashtag triggered a surge of responses, quickly propelling #Ekta\_Ka\_Maha\_Kumbh to the top of the trending charts.

The hashtag was further amplified by influential figures and institutions, including former Amethi MP and BJP leader Smriti Irani. the government of India's MyGovIndia handle, Namami Gange, Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan, UP Agriculture Minister Surya Pratap Shahi and minister Sandeep Singh.

The overwhelming social media response aligned with the message of unity emphasised by Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Adityanath, who described the Maha Kumbh as a 'Maha Kumbh of Unity"

Adityanath had recently reaffirmed in a press conference that those who question the Sanatan faith should witness the Maha Kumbh, emphasising that it transcends distinctions of caste, creed and sect, bringing all together in the spirit of Sanatan harmony.

Alongside #Ekta\_Ka\_Maha\_ Kumbh, several other hashtags trended throughout the day, capturing the spiritual fervour of the Maha Kumbh. Hashtags such as #MahaKumbh2025, #PaushPurnima, #PavitraSangam, #PrathamAmrit and #Sangam saw widespread engagement as social media users expressed their reverence for the sacred event.

Many also extended congratulations and best wishes to Chief Minister Aditvanath for his efforts in ensuring the grandeur and spiritual magnificence of this historic Maha Kumbh.

### Selfie craze with cutouts of /lodi, Adityanath in Kumbh

The Sangam bank in Prayagraj Monday became a hotspot with crowds flocking to take selfies with the cutouts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the first pathing festival of the Maha umbh. The 45-day Maha Kumb Iela will culminate February 26 with 40 crore devotees expected to take a dip in the Sangam. A sizeable number of women and youths gathered in large numbers at Nandi Dwar on Paush Purnima Snan to click photos and selfies, displaying their craze for Modi and Adityanath.



# national



sensitive but stable'

Just imagine my pain. Only a month back or so, we found on a particular seat in the Rajya Sabha, the Council of States, a wad of notes, ₹500 in denomination. What has really pained me is that no one has come to claim it JAGDEEP DHANKHAR VICE PRESIDENT AND RAJYA SABHA CHAIRMAN

# 'NAG MK 2' TESTED SUCCESSFULLY

India has successfully carried out field evaluation trials of indigenously-developed third-generation anti-tank guided missile Nag Mk-2. The defence ministry said the trials were conducted recently at a firing range in Rajasthan's Pokhran in the presence of senior Army officers





It is the birth anniversary of D B Patil. In June 2022, the MVA government cabinet decid

ed to name the Navi Mumbai International Airport as Shri DB Patil International Airport and sent the recommendation to the Union government AADITYA THACKERAY

SHIV SENA (UBT) LEADER

The state government is considering implementing a ban on liquor in religious cities by improving the

policy and is serious about the suggestions given by saints in this regard

MOHAN YADAV | CM, MADHYA PRADESH

The selection committee structure of UGC **Regulations 2025** is actually the format of UGC

Regulations 2010. In this, a selection committee has been formed for the appointment of teachers and other academic staff and to maintain high standards

DHARMENDRA PRADHAN UNION EDUCATION MINISTER

# SHORT TAKES

### UGC-NET postponed

New Delhi: The UGC-National Eligibility Test (NET) scheduled for January 15 has been postponed on account of festivals, including Makar Sakranti and Pongal, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced Monday. The exam for admission to PhD programmes, awarding Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and appointment as assistant professors is being conducted from January 3 to January 16 for 85 subjects in the Computer Based Test (CBT) mode, "The NTA has received representations to postpone the exam January 15 on account of festivals and Makar Sakranti, including Pongalakranti. In the interest of the aspirants, the exam has been postponed and a new date will be announced later. The exam January 16 will be conducted as per the earlier

**Army Chief Gen** 

**Dwivedi said the** violence level is being orchestrated by the epicentre of terrorism that is Pakistan

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi Monday said there is still a degree of standoff between the Indian and Chinese militaries along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh and both sides need to sit down and firm up a broader understanding on

how to calm down the situation. Gen Dwivedi, describing the situation in the region as sensitive but stable, said the core commanders have now been delegated powers to resolve trivial matters or minor frictions relating to patrolling and grazing so that they do not become big issues later.



The Army chief, addressing a press conference ahead of the Army Day January 15, also said that there was no such thing called buffer zones as a tempo-

rary moratorium was put on patrolling in certain areas to avoid chances of violence. Delving into changes witnessing the region since the face-off began in April 2020, Gen Dwivedi said both sides

doctored the terrain, carried out constructions, made deployment of troops and resorted to stocking of military hardware. Therefore, what it means is that there is (still) a degree of standoff. Now as you have changed the situation after April 2020, so the trust be-

tween the two countries has to have a new definition, the Army chief said. Gen Dwivedi said the Army

is looking forward to the next meeting of the Special Representatives on the boundary question of the two countries as well as talks under the framework of WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination) on India-China border affairs. 'We will be moving forward

based on the guidance emerging from the meetings," he said. Calling India's military deployment along the LAC as balanced and robust, he said the Army is well poised to deal with any situation.

A focused capability development for northern borders enabled infusion of niche technology into a war-fighting system, he said.

On the situation in Manipur, the Army chief said "synergised efforts" by security forces and "proactive" government initiatives have brought the situation in the state under control.

"However, cyclic incidents of violence continue. We are working towards establishing peace in the region," he said.

On Jammu and Kashmir, the Army chief said the situation is "firmly" under control and the 2021 "ceasefire" with the Pakistan military on the Line of Control (LoC) was holding up. At the same time he said,

"The violence level is being orchestrated by the epicentre of terrorism that is Pakistan.'

The Chief of Army Staff said infiltration attempts are continuing including at the IB (International Border) sector along with attempts to smuggle in war-like stores and narcotics.

"Last year, 60 per cent of terrorists eliminated were of Pakistan origin. As of today, whatever is a remnant in the Valley and Jammu area, we feel that around 80 per cent or more are of Pakistan origin," he said.

# ARMY CHIEF ON EASTERN LADAKH Situation along LAC Vaishnaw fact-checks Zuckerberg on LS results



Zuckerberg, chairman and CEO of Meta Platforms, triggered a row by claiming in a podcast interview that the Indian government lost the election in 2024 due to its weak covid-19 response

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw hit back at Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg Monday for making a "factually incorrect" statement that the incumbent government in India lost the election in 2024 due to its handling of the covid-19 pandemic. Zuckerberg, chairman and CEO of Meta Platforms, triggered a row by claiming in a podcast interview that the Indian government lost the election in 2024 due to its weak covid-19 response.

Vaishnaw opted for Meta's Facebook platform to call out Zuckerberg for spreading "misinformation".

"It is disappointing to see misinformation from Mr Zuckerberg himself. Let's uphold facts and credibility," the Union

information and broadcasting minister said, tagging Meta on

X and other social media platforms "From free food for 800 million, 2.2 billion free vaccines, and aid to nations worldwide during covid, to leading India as the fastest-growing major economy, PM Modi's decisive 3rd-term victory is a testament to good governance and public

trust," he said. Vaishnaw said as the world's largest democracy, India conducted the 2024 general election involving more than 640 million (64 crore) voters.

"People of India reaffirmed their trust in the NDA led by PM Narendra Modi Ji's leader ship," he added.

Vaishnaw said Zuckerberg's remarks failed to recognise these efforts and the strong mandate secured by the Indian government, and risked undermining the credibility of Meta's platforms.

"Mr Zuckerberg's claim that most incumbent governments, including India in the 2024 elections, lost post-covid is factually incorrect," the minister said.

Appearing on the Joe Rogan podcast, Zuckerberg said 2024 was the big election year around the world and in a lot of countries like India, the incumbents lost the polls.

### Patna HC Chief Justice Chandran appointed as Supreme Court judge PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: Patna High Court Chief Justice K Vinod Chandran was Monday elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court Colle gium recommended Justice Chandran's name January 7, and his appointment was an nounced Monday by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal in a post on X.

Justice Chandran was appointed as a judge of the Kerala High Court November 8, 2011. He was elevated as the chief justice Patna High Court March 29, 2023.

Once he takes oath as a judge of the top court, the working strength of the Supreme Court would rise to 33. Its sanctioned strength is 34, including the chief justice of India.

"He (Chandran) has served as a judge of the high court for more than 11 years and as a chief justice of a big high court for more than a year. During his long tenure as a judge and chief justice of the high court Justice Chandran has acquired significant experience in di verse fields of law," the collegium resolution said while recommending his name.

# Bengal orders CID probe into 'expired' IV fluid issue

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 13: The West Bengal government Monday ordered a CID probe into the death of a woman and three others falling critically ill after childbirth in a state-run hospital allegedly following adminis tration of 'expired' intravenous fluid, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant said.

A 13-member committee, formed by the state health de partment, will investigate the matter parallelly, he said adding that strict action would be taken against those found re sponsible for the incident.

The decisions were taken at a review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee, with senior officials of the health department. The CM also holds the health portfolio

"We have asked the CID to investigate the matter. They will look into all aspects and find out whether there were procedural lapses and wheth er SOPs (standard operating procedures) were properly fol lowed or not," Pant said. The 13-member administrative committee which is tech nically qualified to look into the medical side will parallelly probe the matter, the chief sec retary said. "We have asked the committee to file the final report within three days and hopefully the CID will also be able to submit their findings in quick time," he added. Pant said the CM held a review meeting with officials of the state health department and gave a clear direction that such negligence in administrative and procedural lapses will not be tolerated.

# India summons acting high commissioner of Bangladesh

said.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: India Monday summoned Bangladesh's acting High Commissioner Nural Islam and conveyed to him that New Delhi has followed all laid down protocols

operative approach to combat-

ing cross-border crimes. "The Bangladesh acting high commissioner to India, Md Nural Islam was summoned by MEA to the South Block today at 2 pm," an official readout

### Cal HC: Coal scam accused granted bail

schedule.

Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court granted bail to Vikas Mishra, an accused in an alleged coal scam being investigated by the CBI, in connection with a case of harassment of a minor, Monday. He was on judicial remand since his arrest by the Kolkata Police November 24 in connection with the case under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act filed by the mother of the minor.Granting conditional bail to Mishra, a division bench presided by Justice Arijit Banerjee, directed him to furnish a bail bond of ₹10,000 with two sureties of like amount each, one of whom must be local.

SI dies by suicide in

**Tamil Nadu's Erode** 

Erode (Tamil Nadu): A 38-year-

old sub-inspector from Erode

died by suicide Monday at

his residence, police said.

Sasikumar, who served as

an SI at Erode Town Police

Station, left for his house in

Arachalur after completing

his duty Sunday. Around 7

am Monday he contacted

his higher officials over the

phone. However, by 11 am,

when the doors of his house

remained closed, neighbours

grew suspicious. They

went to his residence and

discovered that Sasikumar

The neighbours broke into

the house, and took him to

**Erode Government District** 

him brought dead, police

Headquarters Hospital around

noon, where doctors declared

had hung himself, police said.

in the construction of fencing along the border between the two neighbours.

India's action came a day after Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranav Verma was called in by the neighbouring country's foreign ministry to express its "deep concern' over the "activities" of the Border Security Force.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it was conveyed to Islam that India observed all protocols and agreements between the two governments on the security measures at the border and it expects that all earlier understandings will be implemented by Bangladesh along with a co-

It was conveyed that with regard to security measures at the border, including on fencing, India observed all protocols and agreements between the two governments and between the Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh," the MEA said in the readout.

It said India reiterated its commitment to ensuring a crime-free border by effectively addressing the challenges of cross-border criminal activities, smuggling, movement of criminals and trafficking.

"Barbed wire fencing, border lighting, installation of technical devices and cattle fences are measures for securing the border." it said.



Nylon Manja worth ₹18 lakhs being destroyed during a 'Say To No Nylon Manja Abhiyan' run by Nagpur Police on the eve of Makar Sankranti festival, in Nagpur

# From humble start to cutting-edge tech, IMD leads weather race at 150

Born out of calamities -- a devastating cyclone in 1864 and monsoon failures in 1866 and 1871 -- the IMD, turning 150 January 15, has transformed from a humble setup into a cutting-edge hub of weather science

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: From a few rain gauges in 1875 to rivalling the world's best weather agencies, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has weathered its way to becoming a glob-

al leader in forecasting. Born out of calamities -- a devastating cyclone in 1864 and monsoon failures in 1866 and 1871 -- the IMD, turning 150 January 15, has transformed from a humble setup into a

science. "HF Blandford, the first Meteorological Reporter to the government of India, prepared the first rainfall map of the

cutting-edge hub of weather

country (undivided India) using data from 77 rain gauges. The IMD has come a long way since its modest start," IMD Director General Mrutyunjaya Mohapatra told PTI.

According to its 2023 report, the IMD operates 39 Doppler Weather Radars, INSAT 3D/3DR satellites providing 15-minute cloud updates, and a robust network of 806 Automatic Weather Stations, 200 Agro-AWS, 5,896 rain monitoring stations, 83 lightning sensors and 63 Pilot Balloon Stations.

The IMD's key advancements include rapid severe weather assessments (2015). 6-minute cvclone scans (2018) and upgraded satellite systems.



Its advanced numerical weather prediction models now deliver seamless forecasts from a few hours to an entire season, backed by high-resolution global models and seasonal forecast systems introduced between 2016 and 2021

Mohapatra said improvements in observations, communication, modelling and infrastructure have significantly enhanced weather and climate

services

"Forecast accuracy for severe

weather events improved by about 50 per cent in 2023 compared to 2014. This has significantly reduced the loss of lives and property during extreme weather events," he said.

By 2023, the accuracy of fiveday forecasts matched the oneday forecast accuracy of 2017. Cyclone landfall forecasts have become highly precise, with zeAs weather patterns grow More unpredictable globally due to the climate crisis, the IMD is taking a giant leap with 'Mission Mausam' to improve weather understanding and forecasting through expanded observation networks, better modelling and advanced tools like AI and machine learning

he mission includes creating a laboratory to artificially develop clouds, increasing the number of radars by over 150 per cent and adding new satellites, supercomputers and other innovations

ro error in most cases (20 km for 24-hour forecasts).

The 24-hour forecast accuracy stands at 80 per cent for heavy rainfall, 86 per cent for thunderstorms and 88 per cent for heat and cold waves

To make this information accessible to the public in simple language, the IMD has launched several mobile applications, including 'Mausam', which provides weather forecasts for every location in the country.

The IMD achieved all this despite India's complex weath er patterns compared to many developed countries.

"Our weather challenges are more complex. Still, on a global level, the IMD is ranked among the top three weather agencies the other two being the National Weather Service of the US and the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, he said.

The IMD not only serves India but also provides cyclone forecasts and warnings to 13 North Indian Ocean countries and weather services to SAARO nations

It is helping Nepal, the Mal dives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Mauritius develop early warning systems to reduce the loss of life and property caused by worsening extreme weather events.



added.





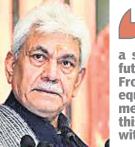








# tuesday | JANUARY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR national



The guidance and support for building a new Jammu and Kashmir have created a solid foundation for the bright future of women and youth here. From cities to villages, a wave of equitable, multi-sectoral development has given every citizen of this region the opportunity to live with dignity and respect

MANOJ SINHA | LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, J&K

## **SINGAPORE PRESIDENT TO BEGIN** 5-DAY VISIT TO INDIA TODAY

President of Singapore Tharman Shanmugaratnam will be on a five-day visit to India beginning Tuesday with an aim to give new momentum to the ties between the two countries. It will be Shanmugaratnam's first visit to India as Singapore president



# of the uote

India's development is closely tied to the progress of the North East, and the region's growth will depend on the development of Arunachal

Pradesh and its villages **PEMA KHANDU |** CM. ARUNACHAL PRADESH

#### A total of 512 people died of AIDS-related complications from 2015-16 to 2023-24 in the northeastern state

MANIK SAHA CM, TRIPURA



LAXMAN PRASAD ACHARYA



Sarcasm and jokes apart, isn't it really shameful not to be invited by a country head when most

leaders of any eminence have been invited. It's an indicator of ruined international relationships. After all the dance drama PR, now countries don't want him to visit and use the occasion to promote himself among his bhakt followers. @Sydusm

# SHORT TAKES

## IIT-Kharagpur student found hanging in hostel

Kolkata: A student of IIT-Kharagpur was found dead inside his hostel room, an institute official said Monday. Shaon Malik, a third-year student of Electrical Engineering, was found hanging inside the room by his parents who had come to meet him Sunday. His parents and institute personnel had to forcibly open the door of the hostel room after he did not respond to repeated calls, the official said. Malik had spoken to his parents over phone the previous night and "things seemed perfectly normal", according to the official.

The Army Day Parade will take place at Bombay Engineering Group and Centre in Maharashtra's Pune January 15 which comes under the Army's Southern Command

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 13:** The Army Day Parade this year will see participation of an all-girl marching contingent from the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and showcasing of four thematic tableaux, including one based on the force's Mission

Olympics Wing. An all-women Agniveer contingent from the Corps of Military Police (CMP), Centre and School at Bangalore, and a set of marching 'robotic mules' will also register their presence at the prestigious annual parade

## for the first time, defence sourc

es said. The Army Day Parade will take place at Bombay Engineering Group (BEG) and Centre in Maharashtra's Pune January 15 which comes under the Army's Southern Command.

In the evening, a programme called 'Gaurav Gatha' is planned to be held showcasing the evolution of welfare from ancient period to the contemporary era. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is likely to grace this event, the sources said.

The theme for the 77th Army Day celebrations is 'Samarth

CAG REPORTS IN ASSEMBLY



All-girl NCC contingent, robotic mules to take part in Army Day Parade

Bharat, Saksham Sena', and the focus this time is to demonstrate the capabilities of the Army contributing to a stronger nation.

Some of the platforms that will be showcased during the parade include K9 Vajra self-propelled howitzer, BMP-2 Sarath infantry combat vehicle, T-90 tanks, Swathi weapon locating radar, Sarvatra Bridging System, Multi-Barrel Rocket System, ATOR N1200 all-terrain vehicle, drone jammer systems and mobile communication nodes, sources in the defence establishment said. The theme for the 77th Army Day celebrations is 'Samarth Bharat, Saksham Sena', and the focus this time is to demonstrate the capabilities of the Army contributing to a stronger nation

12 robotic mules' standing in two equal rows followed by their handlers will also be taking part in the parade for the very first time.

These mules were inducted last year and represent the Army's steps towards modernisation of the force

The Army has declared 2024-25 as the 'year of technology absorption'

"This year's parade will include an all-girl contingent of the NCC and an all-women

# SUERCINS

# SC asks UP government to consider premature release of Babloo Srivastava

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has directed the UP government to consider within two months the premature release of gangster Om Prakash Srivastava, alias Babloo Srivastava, serving life term in a 1993 murder case. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh directed the state government to consider the plea seeking remission under sub-section (1) of Section 473 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. Srivastava sought the relief under Section 2 of the United Provinces Prisoners' Release on Probation Act, 1938 but the plea was rejected. The top court said Section 2 of the 1938 Act was more stringent than Section 432 of the CrPC or Section 473 of the BNSS. It said unless the state government recorded a finding that it was satisfied over the antecedents of a convict, or their conduct in prison, and that they were likely to abstain from crime and lead a peaceful life upon release, the convict couldn't be released. The bench directed the court concerned -- mandated to give its opinion under sub-section (2) of Section 473 of the BNSS -- to forward it within 15 days from the date of receipt of the state's request.

# Mathura Shahi Idgah row: SC to hear mosque committee's plea Jan 15

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court would January 15 hear a plea of the mosque management committee against an order rejecting its petition in the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute in Mathura, UP. A single judge bench of the Allahabad High Court August 1, last year, rejected the plea of the Committee of Management, Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah, challenging the maintainability of 15 cases related to the temple-mosque dispute in Mathura, and ruled the "religious character" of Shahi Idgah needed to be determined. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, December 9, last year commenced the final hearing in the case and the matter is set to come up before the bench January 15, according to the SC website. One of the Hindu parties, represented by advocate Barun Sinha, had argued the mosque committee could have moved the Allahabad High Court against the single judge's order over the dispute.

Ad-hoc committee: Delhi HC asks IOA stand on Bihar olympic body's plea Agniveer contingent from the Corps of Military Police centre in Bangalore and both will be taking part in the Army Day Parade for the first time," a defence source said.

Besides, "12 robotic mules" standing in two equal rows followed by their handlers will also be taking part in the parade for the very first time.

These mules were inducted last year and represent the Army's steps towards modernisation of the force. These nimble-footed machines can carry loads, go to inaccessible areas and engage militants also, they said.

As per the plan, the tableau depicting the Army's Mission Olympics Wing will be the leading tableau and one themed on technology absorption in the last one decade will be the last in the series, an official said.

## PV Anvar resigns as MLA announces support to UDF



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thiruvananthapuram, Jan 13: Kerala legislator P V Anvar's resignation as Nilambur MLA Monday evoked mixed political reaction in the state. While the opposition Congress-led UDF responded cautiously, saying it would take a decision on his willingness to join the front at an appropriate time, the ruling CPI(M) tried to downplay the matter.

Though Anvar openly extend ed unconditional support to the UDF and publicly apologised for raising corruption allegations against the Leader of Opposition, the Congress leadership adopted a stand not to react quickly. Leader of Opposition. VD Satheesan, and senior party leader Ramesh Chennithala said neither the Congress party nor the UDF had held any discussion about accepting Anvar into their fold. But both of them expressed happiness about the support extended to the UDF by him.

Chennithala said he came to know about Anvar's resignation through television channels.

# Dragging your feet: HC raps AAP govt

Justice Sachin Datta, who was hearing a petition by the Opposition MLAs from BJP, asked if the court could direct the speaker, having the 'prerogative', to call a sitting of the Assembly when elections were around the corner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: The Delhi High Court Monday said CAG reports over city administration should have been promptly placed before the Assembly for discussion and the state government "dragging its feet" on the issue raised "doubts on its bonafides".

Justice Sachin Datta, who was hearing a petition by the Opposition MLAs from BJP, asked if the court could direct the speaker, having the "prerogative", to call a sitting of the Assembly when elections were around the corner. "The way you dragged your feet raises doubts about your bonafides. You should have promptly forwarded the reports to the speaker for having a discussion on the floor of the Assembly," the court said. The judge went on, "You have dragged your feet to avoid having a discussion. See the number of dates you held onto the report, and the time taken to send them to the LG, and then forwarding it to the speaker. The timeline is stark. See the way you have been



## **BJP SLAMS KEJRIWAL**

The BJP Monday asked AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal if he considers himself above the Constitution as it attacked him over the Delhi government not tabling the CAG reports in the Assembly. BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said the constitutional scheme requires a government to table reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which scrutinises its revenue and expenses, but the AAP dispensation has not done it. "Does he consider himself above the Constitution?" he posed. Trivedi alleged that the "anarchist character" of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is pervading the constitutional system. Noting that there are almost a dozen reports of the CAG related to the finances of the Delhi government, he said the AAP dispensation has refused to table them in the assembly claiming that there is no need for it. The CAG, in its reports, has been critical of some of the policies of the Delhi government, including its now-scrapped excise policy for causing ₹2,026 crore loss to the exchequer.

dragging your feet is something that is unfortunate." Opposition leader Vijender Gupta and BJP MLAs Mohan office made the reports public and shared it with newspapers. "How does it matter?" asked the court. The CAG, in its re-

# 4-year-old girl raped; 2 minor boys held

Narayanpur: A four-year-old girl was allegedly raped by two boys after they lured her to play with them in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district, police said Monday. The boys, who are in the age group of 10 to 13 years, have been detained for the assault that took place in a village under the Kotwali police station area January 10, an official said. He said the assault came to light after the girl was brought to the district hospital for treatment Sunday. Her condition is said to be stable. As per preliminary information, the family of one of the accused is a tenant of the girl's family, and the other boy was her neighbour, the official said. One of the boys is in Class 5, and the other is a Class 8 student, he said.

### Two girls die after falling into reservoir

Thrissur (Kerala): Two girls died after falling into the Peechi reservoir in this central Kerala district during a visit to the site and the two other girls are in critical condition, police said Monday. The deceased have been identified as Anne Grace (16) and Aleena (16), both from Thrissur, they said. The incident occurred Sunday when the girls, who had arrived at a friend's house to celebrate a church festival, went to see the dam. Police, guoting residents, said the girls slipped from a rock and fell into the reservoir.

Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai and Jitendra Mahajan filed the petition last year and sought a direction to the speaker to call a sitting of the Assembly for the purpose of tabling the CAG (comptroller and auditor general) reports.

Senior counsel for the government raised an objection over the "political" nature of the petition, and alleged the LG ports, was critical of some of the AAP-led Delhi government's policies, including its now-scrapped excise policy for reportedly causing losses to the exchequer.

The senior counsel for the government accused the petitioners of using court as a "tool for political gain" and urged it to note that they held a press conference when the matter was sub judice.

Justice Datta said the court couldn't "react" to the allegation as it was not concerned with politics. **New Delhi:** The Delhi High Court Monday sought the stand of the Indian Olympic Association on a plea by Bihar Olympic Association challenging the decision over an ad-hoc committee looking after its affairs. Justice Sachin Datta asked the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to file a response in a week on the plea which sought restoration of the status of the state's body in light of the 38th national games scheduled to be held from January 28. The petitioner, represented by advocate Neha Singh, argued the appointment of a single-member fact-finding panel in November 2024 over certain alleged complaints with respect to its functioning and election process was unilateral. The consequent "illegal" decision of the respondent authority, taken January 1, to form the ad-hoc committee could not be sustained, the petitioner argued. Singh said at no point was the petitioner informed about the purported representations received against it and got no opportunity to be heard.

Welcoming Anvar's announcement about unconditional support for the Congress-led front, Chennithala, however, was reluctant to react to his suggestion of making Congress leader VS Joy as UDF candidate in Nilambur for the upcoming Assembly bypoll. Anvar, who joined the Trinamool Congress recently after parting ways with the ruling LDF a few months ago, resigned Monday as the MLA of the Nilambur constituency.

# Illegal coal mining: A ticking time bomb

H istory repeats itself, first as a tragedy, second as farce, so goes a famous quote. Tragedy is the coal mine accident in Assam January 6 where four people are confirmed dead and a national effort is underway to save the missing. The farce is that not one of the 26,000 abandoned rat-hole mines - in just one district of Meghalaya alone - has so far been closed despite an order, a decade ago. There are much more in many other.

The nation-wide proliferation of illegal coal mining is a ticking time bomb that erupts like a boil on the body fabric of the country every time accidents take place. For the remainder, it keeps patiently nibbling away at the national economy creating black money barons while the establishment of the day is busy cherry picking piddly political opponents.

Some north-eastern states may be pock-marked with 'abandoned' yet activated illegal mines but the activity is rampant in other states like West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka even Gujarat - only the product that is mined varies. In Gujarat,

three labourers were asphyxiated inside an illegal coalmine in Surendranagar district in July last year.

It was the fourth incident reported in the district in which about a dozen people have lost their lives in illegal coal mining. Opposition leaders put the figure at over 20. The district administration forced closure of over 2000 such sites but no sooner that their back turned, many of them were opened up. Gujarat Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi alleges involvement of local politicians of the ruling party in the illegal mining. A taluka and district panchayat husband-wife team of BJP office-bearers figure as accused in this particular case. The National Green Tribunal. Pune had suo moto taken up the issue.

Illegal coal mining in this district has been a persistent problem. The issue was raised by Kuvarji Bavalia, Congress MP (he subsequently switched sides and is now a BJP cabinet minister in Gujarat) in Parliament in December 2010, wherein the Union government admitted that illegal mining was taking place clandestinely in abandoned mines, small and isolated patches and outcrop areas. However the coal deposits are of



very poor quality and therefore not given to scientific or economic mining.

As in this case and most others pertaining to illegal mining, the Centre terms it a law and order problem and therefore a responsibility of the state government to curb it.

While the local and regional industry remains the main beneficiary of the illegally mined coal which has the tacit connivance of local ruling party politicians, the onus shifts to the government every time there is an accident. Even in the present Assam rat-hole coal mine accident, a national effort is underway to save poverty stricken labour employed in a wholly clandestine activity. The Army, Navy, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) besides elements of the state uniformed forces have been at work round the clock. Coal is the primary source accounting for 70 per cent of the country's power supply through thermal power plants. When demand outstrips supply the coal 'mafia' steps-in. And the rest is a rusted gramophone pin playing poetry.

For the record, India is one of the world's top coal importing countries along with Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China. In FY24, India imported nearly 264 million tonnes of coal worth ₹3,179 billion. The country's coal production value in this period was over ₹1,553 billion. Coal imports mainly consist of high grade coal and coking coal which are more expensive than thermal coal. The nationalisation of coal took place in two phases, the first with the coking coal mines in 1971-72 and then with the non-coking coal mines in 1973.

The economics of illegal mining is that minimum operational costs turn it into a lucrative business. So surface mining and rat-hole mining. The former is mining when the coal beds are nearer the surface while in the latter the extraction is through a narrow tunnel which is dug merely 3 to 4 feet to enable a single person to crawl in and out. Unlike in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, coal seams in Meghalaya are thin, making rat-hole mining economically viable. The state has an estimated reserve of 576.48 million tonnes of low-ash, high-sulphur coal belonging to the Eocene age (33-56 million years ago).

According to the 22nd interim report of the retired judge BK Katakey committee submitted to the Meghalaya High Court there are 26,000 rathole mine openings in East Jaintia Hills district alone which need to be closed down. The panel has not dwelt on the status of the abandoned rathole mines in West Khasi Hills, South-West Khasi Hills and Garo Hills districts of Meghalaya.

The NGT had banned rat-hole mining in Meghalaya over a decade ago but illegal mining remains rampant, leading to death and environmental destruction. In April 2014, the tribunal also banned transportation of coal in the state. "Not a single abandoned mine has been closed so far as the preparation of DPR (detailed project report) by the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited is in progress," the report noted. Bad is called good when worse happens!





As Turkey, we are ready to do our part to ease the difficult path ahead for the Svrian people

HAKAN FIDAN | FOREIGN MINISTER, TURKEY



weight champion of the world when it comes to our reservoir of national strength, our economy, our innovation base, our capacity to attract investment, our capacity to attract talent? JAKE SULLIVAN

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER, WHITE HOUSE



teachers personalising lessons, to supporting small businesses with their record-keeping, to speeding up planning applications, it has the potential to transform the lives of

working people

KEIR STARMER | PRIME MINISTER, UK

# SHORT TAKES

### Congo fighting rages

Goma: Several towns that fell to armed groups in eastern Congo's North Kivu and South Kivu provinces have been recaptured by government forces, a Congolese army spokesman said, even as the rebels have made advances in other areas amid intensified fighting in the conflictbattered region. Eastern Congo has been in conflict for decades with more than 100 armed groups, most of which are vying for territory in the vast and mineral-rich region near the border with Rwanda. The conflict has created one of the world's largest humanitarian crises with more than 7 million people

displaced, including 100,000 who have fled their homes this year. The Congolese army said some of the recovered towns have been occupied by rebels for months, including Ngungu, a key town in the Masisi

night of unimaginable terror territory that is near the North and heartbreak," Los Angeles Kivu provincial capital, Goma Some Masisi villages, however, remain under the control of rebels, including its center known as the Masisi Center.

China launches new warship with drone warfare capability

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Jan 13: The Chinese navy has launched an amphibious assault ship which will double up as a drone carrier, integrating the battleship with unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), a Chinese naval official said. China's newly launched Type

076 amphibious assault ship will play a key role in boosting uncrewed combat capabilities, a navy commander has said in

LA races to contain

severe winds return

Los Angeles, Jan 13: Fire-

fighters raced to contain the

frontiers of two Los Angeles

wildfires that burned for the

in what California Governor

Gavin Newsom said could be

the most devastating natural

disaster in US history, one

that has destroyed thousands of

homes and forced 100,000 people

Flames have reduced whole

neighborhoods to smoldering

at least 12,300 structures have

"LA County had another

been damaged or destroyed.

the flames anew.

to evacuate.

REUTERS

wildfires before

the first official acknowledge ment of the warship's widely speculated role as a drone carrier.

In an interview aired by state broadcaster CCTV Sunday, People's Liberation Army (PLA) naval commander Chi Jianiun said efforts to integrate uncrewed or UAV systems into military training were already underway across the fleet, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported Mon-

day. Chi is commander of the PLA's large destroyer, the domestically built Type 055 stealth guided-missile destroyer Nanchang.

# **RAGING INFERNO**

Firefighters brace for fierce winds

The warship marked its fifth anniversary in service Sunday. In comments underscoring

DRAGON'S NEW AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP



the growing role of drones and attack robots on the battlefield, Chi said "It's not just us de-

# Gaza truce on anvil

Trump inauguration seen in region as de facto deadline

### REUTERS

Doha, Jan 13: Mediators gave Israel and Hamas a final draft of a deal Monday to end the war in Gaza, an official briefed on the negotiations said, after a midnight "breakthrough" in talks attended by envoys of both Joe Biden and Donald Trump.

The official said the text for a ceasefire and release of hostages was presented by Qatar to both sides at talks in Doha, which included the chiefs of Israel's Mossad and Shin Bet spy agencies and Qatar's prime minister.

The official said Steve Witkoff, who will become US envoy when Trump returns to the US presidency next week, attended the talks. A US source said the outgoing Biden administration's envoy Brett McGurk was also there

"The next 24 hours will be pivotal to reaching the deal,' the official said, characterising the draft as the outcome of a breakthrough reached in the early hours of Monday.

Israel's Kan radio, citing an Israeli official, reported Monday that Israeli and Hamas delegations in Qatar had both received a draft, and that the

stroyers. Aircraft carriers, the newly launched Type 076, the earlier Type 075 [amphibious assault ship], and other vessels are and will all be involved. Uncrewed operations are an undeniable trend in modern warfare."

China currently has two aircraft carriers in operation- the Liaoning, a refit of the Soviet-era ship commissioned in 2012 and Shandong, an indigenously built 2nd aircraft carrier commissioned in 2019.

China's third aircraft carrier Fujian, which is larger than the wanese military personnel two carriers with a displaceare a special concern, acment of 80,000, is currently uncounting for around half of dergoing trials. the 64 alleged spies put on

trial last year, it said. That number is up from 16 in 2021 and 10 in 2022. The arrests are in line with China's stepped-up campaign of military intimidation, economic coercion and "gray ar ea" tactics such as utilizing the internet to promote unification

and providing all-expense-paid trips to China to low-level gov ernment officials. According to a report re leased over the weekend by Taiwan's National Security Bureau, Chinese agents have sought to use the Taiwanese underworld to channel funds to those with information to sell. Gangs, many with origins dating to before the 1949 split between the two sides, are

sought out, along with loan sharks, shell companies that can be used to launder funds religious sects that sometimes engage in illegal activity, and non-profit groups, the report

said. Some payments are made in cryptocurrency, while old-fashioned methods are also used such as sexual seduction to trap unsuspecting targets and pressure them to reveal secrets That was the case of a one-star general, Lo Hsien-che. who was caught in such a scheme while stationed in Thailand, the bu reau said

Among those arrested last year were 23 people working together in a spy ring, one of whom was sentenced to 20 years in prison, it said.

sixth straight day Sunday, taking advantage of a brief respite in hazardous conditions before high winds were expected to fan Angeles, 24 dead, 100,000 evacuated At least 24 people have died

- Red flag conditions of high winds returning

anyone could be ordered to evacuate

Mexico send firefighters

ruins, leveling the homes of the rich and famous and ordinary under control.

The Eaton Fire in the foothills east of Los Angeles



• All of LA County warned

• Seven states, Canada and

to help

folk alike, and leaving an apocalvptic landscape. Officials said

scorched another 14,117 acres (57 sq km) or 22 square miles itself nearly the size of Manhattan - and firefighters increased the containment to 27%, up

ing from the inland deserts had fanned flames and blew embers up to 2 miles (3 km) ahead of the front lines

But, in an area that has not received any rain of note since April, the National Weather Service forecast Santa Ana winds of up to 50 to 70 miles per hour (80 to 112 kph) would resume on Sunday night (U.S. West Coast time) and last through Wednesday.

Officials warned the entire Los Angeles County population of nearly 10 million that anyone may be ordered to evacuate from the flames and toxic smoke.

Israeli delegation had briefed Israel's leaders. Israel, Hamas

and the foreign ministry of Qatar did not respond to requests for confirmation or comment. Officials on both sides, while stopping short of confirming that a final draft had been reached, described progress at the talks.

A senior Israeli official said a deal could be sealed within a few days if Hamas replies to a proposal. A Palestinian official close to the talks said information from Doha was "very promising", adding: "Gaps were being narrowed and there is a big push toward an agreement if all goes well to the end.'

The United States, Qatar and Egypt have worked for more than a year on talks to end the war in Gaza, so far fruitlessly.

Trump's January 20 inauguration is now widely seen in the region as a de facto deadline.







China working with

gangs, shell firms to

Taipei, Jan 13: Taiwan's in-

telligence bureau says China's main spy agency is working

with criminal gangs, shell

companies and other dubious

partners to gain intelligence on

Taiwan's defences, resulting in

a major rise in those arrested

for alleged espionage on the

Current and retired Tai-

gain intel: Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

island.

### Khan, Bushra in limbo

Islamabad: A Pakistani court Monday postponed for the third time the announcement of the verdict in the 190 million pounds Al-Qadir Trust corruption case against former prime minister Imran Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi. The Anti-Corruption Court in Islamabad has now set January 17 as the date for announcing the verdict. ATC Judge Nasir Javed Rana completed the hearing in the case December 18 but reserved the judgment until December 23. Later, he fixed January 6 as the date for announcing the verdict, Geo News reported. Judge Rana was on leave January 6 so the verdict was postponed until January 13.

### 40 farmers shot dead

Dakar: At least 40 farmers were killed in an attack by Muslim militants in northeast Nigeria's Borno state, a government official said Monday. The attack Sunday was suspected to have been carried out by extremists from the Boko Haram group and its breakaway faction that is loyal to the Islamic State group in Borno's Dumba community, said Borno state Governor Babagana Umara Zulum. He warned civilians to stay within designated "safe zones". Boko Haram, Nigeria's homegrown jihadis, took up arms in 2009 to fight Western education and impose their radical version of Islamic law. The conflict, now Africa's longest struggle with militancy, has spilled into Nigeria's northern neighbours.

County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath said.

Aerial firefighters, some of them scooping water out of the Pacific Ocean, dropped water and retardant while land crews with hand tools and hoses held the line of the Palisades Fire as it encroached on the upscale Brentwood section and other populated areas of Los Angeles.

That fire on the western side of town has consumed 23,713 acres (96 sq km) or 37 square miles and stood at 13% contained, a figure representing the percentage of the fire's perimeter that firefighters have

from 15% a day earlier. North of the city, the Hurst Fire was 89% contained, and three other fires that had ravaged other parts of the county were now 100% contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) reported, though areas

within the containment lines may still be burning. SEVERE WINDS RETURN Firefighters got a temporary break from the weather this weekend as Santa Ana winds, which reached hurricane force earlier in the week, finally eased. The dry winds originat-

By Sunday, more than 100,000 people in Los Angeles County had been ordered to evacuate - down from a previous high of more than 150,000 - while another 87,000 faced evacuation warnings.

"These winds combined with low relative humidities and low fuel moistures will keep the fire threat in all of Los Angeles County very high," Los Angeles County Fire Chief Anthony Marrone told a press conference, adding that evacuated areas may not be reopened until red flag conditions are lifted Thursday.



Protesters walk holding a banner that reads "Democracy" during a rally organized by the right wing Alliance for the Unity of Romanians (AUR), calling for free elections after Romania's Constitutional Court annulled the first round of presidential elections last December, in Bucharest, Romania

# *Turkey launches 'Year of the Family' targeting LGBTQ+*

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Istanbul, Jan 13: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has marked the launch of Turkey's "Year of the Family" Monday with an attack on the LGBTQ+ community and the announcement of measures to boost birth rates

Citing the "historical truth that a strong family paves the way for a strong state," Erdogan unveiled a series of financial measures to support young families.

The president returned to themes he has espoused before about LGBTQ+ people, including the portrayal of the LGBTQ+ movement as part of a foreign conspiracy aimed at undermining Turkey.

"It is our common responsibility to protect our children and youth from harmful trends and perverse ideologies. Neoliberal cultural trends are crossing borders and penetrating all corners of the world." he told an audience in Ankara. "They also lead to LGBT and other



movements gaining ground."

"The target of gender neutralisation policies, in which LGBT is used as a battering ram, is the family. Criticism of LGBT is immediately silenced, just like the legitimate criticisms of Zionism. Anyone who defends nature and the family is subject to heavy oppression.' Despite its low profile in Tur-

key, the LGBTQ+ community has emerged as one of the main targets of the government and its supporters in recent years.

Pride parades have been banned since 2015, with those seeking to participate facing tear gas and police barricades. In recent years, meanwhile, anti-LGBTQ+ rallies have received state support.

Turning to the "alarming" decline in the population growth rate, Erdogan said Turkey was "losing blood" and recalled his 2007 demand that families have at least three children.

The president also pointed to people getting married later in y is subject to heavy

ECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

life and rising divorce rates as causes for concern. Turkey's annual population growth rate dropped from 2.53% in 2015 to 0.23% last year. "If we do not take the necessary measures. the problem will reach irreparable levels. In such an environment, population loss is inevitable," he added.

To combat the threat to the family, Erdogan revealed policies such as interest-free loans for newlyweds; improved monetary allowances for the parents of new-born children; financial, counselling and housing support to encourage new families; and free or low-cost childcare.

# Croatia President wins another term after defeating ruling party candidate in runoff

Milanovic is the most popular politician in Croatia, and is sometimes compared to US President-elect Donald Trump for his combative style of communication with political opponents

### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zagreb, Jan 13: Croatia's opposition-backed President Zoran Milanovic, a critic of the European Union and NATO, overwhelmingly won re-election for another five-year term Sunday, defeating a candidate from the ruling conservative party in a runoff vote, official results showed.

Milanovic won more than 74 per cent of the vote compared to his challenger Dragan Primorac, who received nearly 26 per cent, according to the results released by Croatia's state



election authorities after more than 99 per cent of the ballots were counted.

The result presents a major boost for Milanovic, who is a critic of Western military support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. Milanovic is also a fierce opponent of Croa tia's conservative Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic and his government

In a speech after the results were released, Milanovic said his victory was a sign of approval and trust from the voters but also presented a message "about the state of affairs in the country for those who need to hear it".















# suness

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crude prices.

1,048.90 points or 1.36 per cent

to settle at 76,330.01. During the

As many as 3,562 stocks de-

Also, 508 stocks hit their

The NSE Nifty dropped 345.55

"The global markets wit-

points or 1.47 per cent to close

at 23.085.95.



Cyberspace is more complex and challenging than ever due to rapid technological advancements, growing cybercriminal sophistication and deeply interconnected supply chains

JEREMY JURGENS WEF MANAGING DIRECTOR

# **MUTUAL FUNDS COLLECT ₹1.18L-CR VIA NFO IN 2024**

Asset management companies launched 239 new fund offerings (NFOs) mobilising ₹1.18 lakh crore in 2024, with sectoral or thematic equity funds emerging as the top choice of investors, according to a report by Germinate Investor Services Research. This was higher than 212 NFOs collecting ₹63,854 crore in 2023 and 228 NFOs garnering ₹62,187 crore in 2022.





# **SENSEX, NIFTY ON FREEFALL** Strong US jobs data erasing early rate cut expectations, the rupee logging its steepest single-day

India is at an early stage of electrification. Last year. we ended with about 2.4 per

cent electrification. I personally feel that 2025 and 2026 are going to be great trigger points in terms of electrification, and Creta EV is going to drive it

TARUN GARG HYUNDAI MOTOR INDIA LTD COO

early rate cut expectations, the rupee logging its steepest single-day fall in nearly two years and unabated foreign fund outflows also dampened investors' sentiment.

is transformative, with Al empowering businesses and employees.

We are

positioning

ourselves

for a future that

We continue to see growing demand for our AI-led propositions across services and software offerings C VIJAYAKUMAR | HCLTECH CEO AND MD

India's economy continues to grow steadily, driven by rising income

creased financialisation. This shift is driving unprecedented financial activity and positioning wealth management industry exceptionally strong position. We believe that our business holds inherent growth potential of 20-25 per cent, which we expect to sustain for many years

# SHORT TAKES

# India's RE

New Delhi: India's renewable energy installed capacity increased by 15.84 per cent to 209.44 GW by December 2024 from 180.80 GW a year ago. marking a record expansion. an official statement said Monday. The total capacity added during 2024 more than doubled to 28.64 GW from 13.05 GW added a year ago. In 2024, solar power spearheaded this growth with addition of 24.54 GW, registering 33.47 per

cent vear-on-vear rise in its cumulative installed capacity to 97.86 GW in 2024. the statement by Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) said. Wind power addition was 3.42 GW in 2024, taking the total wind capacity to 48.16 GW. a growth of 7.64 per cent from 2023. Bioenergy installed capacity rose from 10.84 GW in December 2023 to 11.35 GW in December last year. Small hydro power projects saw incremental growth, with installed capacity increasing from 4.99 GW in 2023 to 5.10 other taxes of ₹11.87 lakh crore. GW in 2024.



fall in nearly two years and unabated foreign fund outflows dampen investors' sentiment

### 4 days of market crash wipes out ₹24.69L-cr

NEW DELHI: Investors lost ₹24.69 lakh crore in market valuation in the last four days of severe drubbing in the equity market. Spike in global crude prices, unabated foreign fund outflows, a strong US jobs data diminishing early rate cut expectations, and the rupee logging its steepest single-day fall in nearly two years dampened investors' sentiment. The BSE Sensex tanked 1,869.1 points, or 2.39 per cent, in the past four trading sessions. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms eroded by ₹24.69.243.3 crore to ₹4.17.05.906.74 crore (USD 4.82 trillion) in four days. With Monday's sharp fall in equities, the market cap of BSE-listed firms dived below the USD 5-trillion mark. On Monday alone, investors' wealth dropped ₹12.61 lakh crore.

weighing heavily on market sentiment," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial

Services, said. From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Zomato cracked nearly 7 per cent. Power Grid. Adani Ports, Tata Steel, NTPC, Tata Motors, Tech Mahindra, Mahindra & Mahindra, Asian Paints, Sun Pharma and UltraTech Cement were the other major laggards.

In contrast, Axis Bank, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services and IndusInd Bank were the gainers.

The BSE midcap gauge dropped 4.17 per cent, and smallcap index tanked 4.14 per cent. All BSE sectoral indices ended lower. Realty slumped 6.59

### RAMRAJ COTTON EXPANDS TO NORTHERN MARKETS

BHUBANESWAR : Ramrai Cotton, India's premier brand for traditional and ethnic wear, is expanding of its popular innerwear range-featuring vests, briefs, trunks, and boxers—into the northern Indian market. Know for its high-quality vests, briefs, trunks, and boxers for boys and men of all age groups, the brand has firmly established itself as a leader in south India and now aims to replicate this success by catering to the growing demand for premium innerwear in the northern regions. With a robust presence across the region, Ramraj Innerwear operates through 300 exclusive brand outlets and a strong network of over 15,000 retail part-ners. Endorsed by renowned cricketer Shreyas Iyer, the brand combines quality, style, and trust, making it a favourite among consumers. BR Arun Eashwar, Managing director said, "Ramraj Innerwear is committed to delivering products that offer unmatched comfort, enduring quality, and affordability. Unlike a traditional segmentation that divides innerwear

ground by offering high-quality products that meet the needs of a diverse ustomer base. With our expansion into Northern India, we aim to extend this promise to a broader audience and strengthen our market presence.

# Govt capex growth to slow down: Goldman Sachs

# Dec inflation eases to 4-month low of 5.2 pc



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi. Jan 13: Retail inflation declined to a fourmonth low of 5.22 per cent in December, mainly on account of easing of prices in the food basket, including vegetables according to government data released Monday -- giving headroom to the Reserve Bank to reduce the key interest rate in upcoming monetary policy

was 5.48 per cent in November period.

"During the month of December 2024, significant decline in inflation is observed in vegetables, 'pulses and products', 'sugar and confectionary', 'personal care and effects', and cereals and products," the National Statistics Office (NSO) said while releasing the CPI data.

The top five items showing highest year-on-year inflation in December 2024 were peas (89.12 per cent), potato (68.23 per cent), garlic (58.17 per cent), coconut oil (45.41 per cent), and cauliflower (39.42 per cent).

The key items having lowest vear-on-vear inflation in December were jeera, ginger, dry chillies, and LPG (excluding conveyance).

"The CPI (General) reached its lowest point during this period in July 2024. However, the CPI (General) and food inflation in December, 2024 is the lowest in the last four months,' NSO said. Inflation in the food basket was at 8.39 per cent in December, down from 9.04 per

and Head -- Research and Out reach at ICRA -- said while the CPI inflation declined in De cember 2024 from 5.5 per cent in November 2024, the pace of the correction was narrower than expected.

In sequential terms, the dip was driven by food and bever ages, even as the year-on-year inflation for fuel and light, and pan, tobacco and intoxicants recorded mild upticks, she said.

"With the headline inflation stuck stubbornly above 5 per cent, the probability of a rate cut in the February 2025 policy review has certainly receded. However, the considerable de cline in vegetable prices that is underway could convince some MPC members to consider an early cut in the upcoming meeting, with a view to supporting growth," Nayar said.

Paras Jasrai, Senior Economic Analyst at India Ratings and Research, said the February 2025 monetary policy would be happening at the outset of the Union Budget.

"The conviction of fiscal arithmetic would also be weigh ing closely on the monetary policy action. While the cur rent data is positive from the monetary policy perspective, Ind-Ra believes that the mon etary authority would want to wait for one more policy before undertaking any change on the rates front," Jasrai said.

Akhil Mittal, Senior Fund Manager -- Fixed Income, Tata Asset Management, said early price trend in January show vegetable inflation moderating and this could mean inflation falls below 5 per cent sooner and well within the RBI expect ed trajectory going forward.

"This could open up space for the RBI to support growth, which is estimated to have slowed down most since



levels and innessed a significant sell-off, prompting a similar response in domestic markets due to strong US payroll data suggesting fewer rate cuts in 2025. This has strengthened the dollar, driven up bond yields, and made emerging markets less attractive. Recent GDP down-

RAKESH RAWAL | ANAND RATHI WEALTH CEO

# capacity up

released Monday

# grades and slowing earnings amidst higher valuations are Net direct tax kitty swells 16% so far in FY25

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### New Delhi, Jan 13: The net direct tax collection grew 15.88 per cent to about ₹16.90 lakh crore so far this fiscal. according to government data

As per the data by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), mop-up from net non-corporate taxes, which include mainly personal income tax, stood at over ₹8.74 lakh crore. The net corporate tax collection between April 1, 2024, and January 12, 2025, was

around ₹7.68 lakh crore. Net collections from securiBU 2

into premium or budget categories, Ramraj provides a unique middle-

day after US stocks fell on the positive job market, triggering inflation worries. In Asian markets, Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower. Markets in Japan were closed for a holiday. "US imposing sanctions on Russian oil exports pushed the rupee to a fresh low against the dollar, which in turn triggered

massive correction in domestic equity markets as overseas investors continued to desert the local share market. Wide-spread selling across the sectors fuelled along with massive exits in mid and smallcap stocks further worsened the sentiment. Rising crude oil prices would raise concerns of a spike in domestic inflation, which could further delay any rate cut hopes from the RBI in the near to medium term," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities

Crude prices shot up more than USD 1 a barrel after US President Joe Biden's administration tougher sanctions against Russia's energy sector over its war with Ukraine.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 1.43 per cent to USD 80.90 a barrel.

per cent, utilities (4.38 per cent), services (4.35 per cent), power (4.23 per cent), industrials (4.09 per cent), consumer discretionarv (4.04 per cent), consumer durables (3.96 per cent) and commodities (3.69 per cent). Globally, equity markets showed a bearish trend Mon-

Ltd, said.

reviews. The inflation-based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) eased for the second month in a row after it breached the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance level of 6 per cent in October.

# The annual rate of inflation and 5.69 per cent in the year-ago

ties transaction tax (STT) stood at ₹44,538 crore so far this fiscal. Refunds worth over ₹3.74 lakh crore were issued during the period, a 42.49 per cent increase over the year-ago period.

REUTERS

Gross direct tax mop up between April 1 and January 12 grew 20 per cent to over ₹20.64 lakh crore. The government has budgeted to collect ₹22.07 lakh crore in the current fiscal from direct taxes. This includes corporate tax collection of ₹10.20 lakh crore, personal income tax and

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 13: Ahead of the Union budget announcement, foreign brokerage Goldman Sachs said it expects a slowdown in the government capex growth in the new financial year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is likely to announce a 13 per cent increase in the public capex for the new fiscal, as against the 17 per cent in FY24, and the healthy growth in three years before that, it said in a report.

The government will stick to the fiscal consolidation roadmap and narrow the fiscal deficit further to 4.5 per cent of GDP. it said. The foreign brokerage said given the BJP's reduced majority in Parliament, there will be re-allocation of expenditure towards rural transfers and welfare spending.

The brokerage said the multi-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in real GDP growth for the September quarter is due to a mix of slower public capex and also **RBI's restrictions constraining** credit growth in the economy.

"We expect capex growth to slow to 13 per cent from over 30 per cent in FY 21-24, while there might be a tilt towards welfare expenditure or transfer payments," the brokerage said.

We continue to believe the fastest growth pace in public capex is behind us, and we expect capex to grow at or below nominal GDP growth rates from here on," the report said.

cent in the preceding month and 9.53 per cent in December 2023

The RBI, which has been tasked by the government to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent (+/- 2 per cent), has kept the key short-term lending rate (repo) at 6.5 per cent since February 2023.

The Reserve Bank's rate setting panel -- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) -- is scheduled to meet in February.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist

Covid-19. We believe the RBI to shift focus from inflation to wards growth going forward While currency volatility has complicated matters for RBI we think that as things calm down globally, RBI could start easing cycle," he added.

Last month, the RBI raised the inflation projection for the current fiscal year to 4.8 per cent from 4.5 per cent. It also said the lingering food price pressures are likely to keep headline inflation elevated in the December quarter

### JSW Cement gets Sebi nod for IPO

New Delhi: JSW Cement, part of Sajjan Jindal-promoted diversified JSW Group, has received Sebi's go ahead to raise ₹4.000 crore through an initial public offering (IPO), an update with the markets regulator showed Monday. The initial share sale comprises a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹2,000 crore and an Offer-for-Sale (OFS) of ₹2,000 crore by investor shareholders, according to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filed in August last year.

### Fintechs' PL portfolio drops

Mumbai: Fintechs' portfolio outstanding in the riskier personal loans segments dropped by 10 per cent in the September guarter, a selfregulatory organization (SRO) for the sector said Monday. In a data release -- which comes amid concerns on the personal loans front, which have even led to actions from RBI to curb lending in it -- Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) said.

# US tightens its grip on AI chip flows across globe

New York, Jan 13: The U.S. government said Monday it would further restrict artificial intelligence chip and technology exports, divvying up the world to keep advanced computing power in the U.S. and among its allies while finding more ways to block China's access

The new regulations will cap the number of AI chips that can be exported to most countries and allow unlimited access to U.S. AI technology for America's closest allies, while also maintaining a block on exports to China, Russia, Iran and North Korea

The lengthy new rules unveiled in the final days of outgoing President Joe Biden's administration go beyond China and are aimed at helping the U.S. keep its dominant status in AI by controlling it around the world.

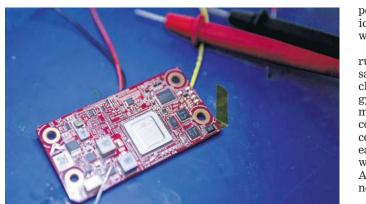
"The U.S. leads AI now both AI development and AI chip design, and it's critical that we keep it that way," U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said.

The regulations cap a fouryear Biden administration effort to hobble China's access to advanced chips that can enhance its military capabilities and seek to maintain U.S. leadership in AI by closing loopholes and adding new guard rails to control the flow of chips and global development of AI. While it is unclear how Pres-

ident-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration will enforce the new rules, the two administrations share similar views on the competitive threat from China. The regulation is set to take effect 120 days from publication, giving the Trump administration

> time to weigh in. New limits will be placed on advanced graphics processing units (GPUs), which are used to power data centers needed to train AI models. Most are made by Santa Clara, California-based Nvidia, while Advanced Micro Devices also sells AI chips. Nvidia and AMD were down between 2% and 3%

in premarket trading Monday. Major cloud service provid-



ers, such as Microsoft, Google and Amazon will be able to seek global authorizations to build data centers

providers would no longer need export licenses for AI chips, allowing them to build data centers in countries that cannot import enough chips because of U.S.-imposed quotas.

Shares of all three companies slipped in premarket action by about 1%. To obtain a stamp of approval, authorized companies must abide by stringent conditions and restrictions, in-

cluding security requirements, reporting demands and a plan or track record of respecting human rights.

Until now, the Biden administration had imposed sweeping restrictions on China's access to advanced chips and the equipment to produce them, updating the controls annually to tighten restrictions and capture countries at risk of diverting the technology to China. **NVIDIA FEARS 'OVERREACH'** 

#### Because the rules alter the landscape for AI chips and data centers around the world,

powerful industry voices criticized the plan even before it was published.

Nvidia Monday called the rule "sweeping overreach" and said the White House would be clamping down on "technology that is already available in mainstream gaming PCs and consumer hardware." Data center provider Oracle argued earlier this month the rules would hand "most of the global AI and GPU market to our Chinese competitors.

The rules impose worldwide licensing requirements on certain chips, with exceptions, and also set controls for what are known as "model weights" of the most advanced "closed-weight" AI models. Model weights help determine decision making in machine learning, and are generally the most valuable elements of an AI model.

The regulation divides the world into three tiers. About 18 countries, including Japan, Britain, South Korea and the Netherlands, will essentially be exempt from the rules. Some 120 other countries, including Singapore, Israel, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates will face country caps. And arms-embargoed countries like Russia, China and Iran will be barred from receiving the tech nology altogether.

In addition, U.S. headquartered providers likely to receive global authorizations such as AWS and Microsoft will be al lowed to deploy only 50% of their total AI computing power outside the United States, no more than 25% outside of the Tier countries, and no more than 7% in a single non-Tier 1 country.

AI has the potential to in crease access to healthcare education and food, among other benefits, but also car help develop biological and other weapons, support cyberattacks and assist with surveillance and other human rights abuses.

"The U.S. has to be prepared for rapid increases in AI's ca pability in the coming years which could have transforma tive impact on the economy and on our national security," US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said.













Once approved, the cloud

# SPORTS **OrissaPOS** TUESDAY | JANUARY 14, 2025 | BHUBANESWAR CLASICO Barca lift Super Cup



**Barcelona rout Real** Madrid again to win Spanish Super Cup final 5-2

#### ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madrid, Jan 13: Real Madrid came out looking for some payback in the latest "clasico" against Barcelona but ended up being embarrassed again.

Madrid lost 5-2 to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, Sunday. That followed a 4-0 loss at home to Barcelona in the Spanish league in October.

Kylian Mbappé put Madrid ahead early in his second clasico, but Barcelona then ran away with goals by Lamine Yamal, Robert Lewandowski, Raphinha — who scored twice

— and Alejandro Balde. Rodrygo scored for Madrid on the hour mark after Barcelona goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny was sent off early in the second half.

It was the third straight win for Barcelona in 2025 after it lost two games in a row to end last vear.

"The Christmas break helped us reflect on what we had done wrong," Lewandowski said. "Now we can look forward to the run of games that we have superb goal until the end of the season." five utes

Madrid lost for the first time after a run of five consecutive victories.

"It was a bad night," Madrid lah Sports coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "It's a disappointment, we won't hide it, but it's soccer ... you have to try to learn from the losses. We have to look forward to what's ahead.' Mbappé had been contained

Spotlight on

Satwik-Chirag as jumbo

*Indian contingent eyes* 

end to two-year

title drought

New Delhi, Jan 13: The con-

tingent is the biggest ever but

focus would be on a handful of

tried-and-tested names, espe-

cially the men's doubles team

of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy

and Chirag Shetty, when Indian

shuttlers go up against a world-

class field in the India Open Su-

per 750 tournament beginning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**The Christmas break** helped us reflect on what we had done wrong. Now we can look forward to the run of games that we have until the end of the season ROBERT LEWANDOWSKI

STRIKER, BARCELONA

min-

King Abdul-

The when the rivals result not met in October but scored a only secured **Barcelona their 15th** into **Spanish Super Cup title** the match at but also reinforced their dominance in City stadium this fixture after picking up the ball just

inside Madrid's half, running at the defense and then finding the net with a clever finish. But Ya-

It was a bad night. It's a disappointment, we won't hide it, but it's soccer ... vou have to try to learn from the losses. We have to look forward to what's ahead

CARLO ANCELOTTI | COACH, MADRID

mal evened the match with a nice run in the 22nd and Lewandowski, who scored twice in the earlier clasico, put the Catalans ahead in the 36th.

Raphinha added goals in the 39th and 48th minutes, while Balde scored

in first-half stoppage time.

Rodrygo scored from a free kick in the 60th after Szczesny was sent off for a foul outside the area to stop a breakaway.

Lewandowski has 26 goals in 27 appearance across all competitions for Barcelona, while Raphinha has scored 19 times and Yamal eight.

Barcelona was able to count on Spain midfielder Dani Olmo after the Spanish government stepped in to provisionally allow the club to register him with the league.

The final came after Mallorca fans said they were harassed by local men who support Madrid after Thursday's semifinal. Two wives of Mallorca players said they were groped. The Spanish Super Cup has become a moneymaker for the federation and competing clubs since the federation struck a deal in 2019 to hold it in Saudi Arabia

# World Cup begins PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: The inaugural edition of Kho Kho World Cup opened here Monday with a spectacular ceremony with the Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar lighting the torch to officially signal the start of the showpiece.

Inaugural Kho Kho

Thousands of fans packed the Indira Gandhi Stadium with Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

A colourful cultural performance preceded the official opening of the tournament.

A sand art projection -- paying ode to Mother Earth -- began the show, after which a ceremonial parade of the Indian flag filled the audience with pride.

The Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) then unveiled the World Cup trophy for both men's and women's tournament with the lifting of the cube, inviting loud cheers from the spectators.

After a stunning dance performance celebrating India, and highlighting the vibrant and colourful culture of the coun-Today's try, the athletes of momentous occasion the participating nations took a parade around the stadium.

Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports

Raksha Khadse. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Vinai Kumar Saxena, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha, Raiva Sabha Member Raieev Shukla and International Kho Kho Federation (IKKF) and Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) President Sudhanshu Mittal were the other dignitaries present.

Welcoming the players from 23 countries in the men's and women's competitions, Dhankhar said, "This has been a spectacular start to the tournament. It feels like the entire world is celebrating Kho Kho." "I have an old relation with Kho Kho. The sport is an art, it

Games in the future. hosting this wonderful tournament. Kho Kho, which originated from India, is now being played across 50 countries. I hope to see Kho Kho being played at the Asian Games and the Olympics soon. I congrat-

ulate all the players from the 23 nations and extend my best wishes to everyone involved.



# SHORT TAKES

### lyer, Punjab's skipper

Chandigarh: India top-order batter Shreyas Iyer, who guided Kolkata Knight Riders to their IPL title triumph in 2024, was named captain of Punjab Kings (PBKS) Sunday ahead of the upcoming season set to begin in March. Iyer, a proven leader and one of the most soughtafter players in the IPL, was roped in by PBKS for a recordbreaking Rs 26.75 crore, making him the second-most expensive player during the November auction. "I am honoured that the team has reposed its faith in me. I am looking forward to working again with coach Ponting. The team looks strong. with a great mix of potential and proven performers. I hope to repay the faith shown by the management to deliver

here Tuesday. Despite the name, Indian success at the tournament hasn't our maiden title," said Iyer in a been particularly regular with none from the host nation winning any title in the past two editions



The 21-strong group that will take the court this week would be desperate to change that statistic and make some amends after an ordinary Olympic campaign six months ago.

The expectations would be especially high from Satwik and Chirag, who claimed the doubles title in 2022, the same year in which the currently erratic Lakshva Sen notched the men's

players like Olympic champions Viktor Axelsen (men) and An Se Young (women), and world No 1 Shi Yuqi leading the competition, it would be no stroll in the park for the **Indians in fray** 

With marguee

top-20 women's singles shuttlers

Chirag and Satwik, who are former world number ones, have made a good start to the

disappointment, they have emerged as India's most reliable performers over the last two years by regularly making the deep end of the draws.

They would be expected to do the same in the \$950,000 event to be held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium here.

Satwik and Chirag, semifinalists at the 2024 China Masters, will face Malaysia's Wei Chong Man and Kai Wun Tee in their opening round.

While the Indians have shown impressive form, they will be seeking improvement in quick rallies and service variations in a bid to better their runners-up position in the tournament last year.

However, the Indian pair will

with three minutes will go down in our remaining in Turn 1 having dismissed golden history of sports. two batches of I am confident that in Nepal defenders future, our own indigenous sports will reach the international level requires agility

> speed, cleverness JAGDEEP DHANKHAR I wish all the par ticipating nations the

INDIA DRAW FIRST BLOOD

ndia got off to a brilliant start in the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup

42-37 victory over Nepal at the Indira

Gandhi Indoor Stadium here Monday

Led by captain Pratik Waikar, India's

all-round performance rounded off

a magnificent day of Kho Kho action

platform. India's bright start defined

the match as they wrapped up Nepal's

first three defenders just 60 seconds

into Turn 1. Spearheaded by brilliant

flying jumps from Pratik Wai-

kar and Ramii Kashvap. India raced to a mas-

sive 14-point lead

providing the team with the perfect

as they registered a comfortable

very best for the tournament,' the vice-president said in his address.

va said he had written to the Olympic Council of Asia to include Kho Kho in the Asian

Sports Minister Mandavi-"I am proud to have India

statement.

### India thrash Scotland

Kuala Lumpur: Defending champions India thrashed Scotland by 119 runs in a warmup match of the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup here Monday. Invited to bat, India made 164 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs with Kamalini G topscoring with 32 off 23 balls. Four Indian batters -- Trisha G (26), Sanika Chalke (17), captain Niki Prasad (25) and Kamalini -were retired out to give chance to their colleagues to be in the middle in the practice match. For Scotland, Ammy Baldie was the most successful bowler with 2/13 from 3 overs. Later, the defending champions bowled Scotland out for a paltry 45 in 18.5 overs for a commanding win.

### **PGTI fixture out**

New Delhi: The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) on Monday announced a lucrative and action-packed first half of the 2025 season, which will tee off in February and will offer a whopping Rs 15.66 crore as total prize money. Once underway, the season will feature 11 consecutive weeks of non-stop golfing action, across as many venues, between February and April with a whopping INR 15.66 crore on offer as total prize money (excluding the Indian Open). The PGTI has so far staged events across India in 16 States, two Union Territories, and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. With the staging of the Chattisgarh Open, the PGTI will make its first foray into the state, thus further expanding its geographical footprint in the country to 17 States.

singles top honour.

The tournament will feature 18 of the world's top-20 men's singles players and 14 of the

season by reaching the semifinals of the Malaysia Super 1000 last week.

Despite the Paris Games

face stiff competition from top names such as China's Olympic silver-medallists Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang.



# Kerala Blasters down OFC



#### POST NEWS NETWORK

#### Bhubaneswar, Jan 13: Odisha FC suffered a 3-2 reverse against Kerala Blasters FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi Monday to extend their winless run to four games.

Jerry Mawia (4') and Dorielton (80') were the scorers for Odisha, while Kwame Peprah (60'), Jesus Jimenez (73'), and Noah Sadaoui (90+5') found the net for the home side. Odisha FC finished the game with 10 men, as former captain Carlos Delgado was sent off with a second yellow card.

The game started with a bang for Odisha FC, as they stunned

the Kochi crowd by scoring in just the fourth minute. A long clearance from Thoiba Singh found Dorielton at the edge of the box. He headed the ball into Jerry Mawia's path, and the winger calmly poked it into the net, silencing the home crowd.

Following the early goal, the

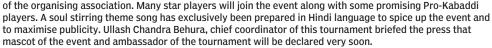
game became a midfield battle, with both teams struggling to create meaningful chances. Kerala Blasters managed to get into the opposition box occasionally but lacked sharpness in the final third. The hosts came out with re-

newed energy after the break, piling on the pressure in search of an equaliser. Amey Ranawade made a crucial clearance in the 48th minute to deny Noah Sadaoui a clear chance. However, Kerala's persistence paid off in the 60th minute, as Kwame Peprah finally broke through, slotting home from inside the box to level the score.

The defeat leaves Odisha FC in 7th place with 21 points. They will remain on the road for their third straight away game, with the encounter against Bengaluru FC up next January 22 at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bangalore, with kickoff scheduled for 7:30 PM.

# Sr Nat'l Men's Kabaddi C'ship at Cuttack from Feb 20

Cuttack: For the first time. Odisha Kabaddi Association has announced to host the 71st National Senior Men's Kabaddi Championship Tournament from February 20-23 at the JN Indoor Stadium in Cuttack. In a press conference convened by Odisha Kabaddi Association at the Kabaddi complex of the Barabati Stadium, the date, venue and timing of the tournament was announced by Ajaya Kumar Behera, General Secretary of Odisha Kabaddi Association. About 400 players from 30 states and 50 more from five departmental teams are to participate in this tournament, informed Sanjay Behera, the secretary

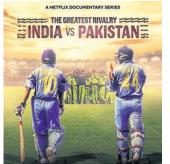


**'The Greatest Rivalry'** will narrate many untold stories of the first India-Pakistan **ODI match as well as** feature interviews of veterans

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 13: 'The Greatest Rivalry - India vs Pakistan', a documentary series on the cricketing rivalry between India and Pakistan, is set to premiere on Netflix February 7, the streaming platform announced Monday.

According to a press release, the series aims to explore "the



drama, passion and high-stakes intensity of this rivalry on the home soil of both nations." It is directed by Chandradev Bhagat and Stewart Sugg.

'The Greatest Rivalry' will narrate many untold stories of the first India-Pakistan ODI match as well as feature interviews of former cricketers from



of the organising association. Many star players will join the event along with some promising Pro-Kabaddi

# Docu series on India-Pak rivalry soon

the neighbouring countries --Virender Sehwag, Sourav Ganguly, Sunil Gavaskar, Waqar Younis, Javed Miandad, Ravichandran Ashwin, Inzamamul-Haq and Shoaib Akhtar recalling their experiences and unveiling secrets, it said. "Expect nail-biting finish-

es, unforgettable sixes, and the kind of drama that keeps you glued to your seat. This documentary not only delves into a thrilling saga of sport and history but also fuels the rising excitement to see what chapter unfolds next, making it as relevant today as it is timeless... The series goes beyond the pitch, uncovering the personal stories, cultural undertones, and raw emotions that fuel one of the greatest rivalries in the world." the makers said in the release.

## Actor Ajith bags third spot at 24H Dubai race AGENCIES

Dubai, Jan 13: Actor Ajith Kumar secured the 3rd spot at the 24H Dubai Race Sunday, despite facing a car crash during the practice session.

Initially, Ajith considered stepping back, but his indomitable spirit brought him back to the competition. With this, he not only made his team, Ajith Kumar Racing, proud but also, surprised his fans.

Taking to X (formerly known as Twitter), Ajith Kuma's manager revealed that the actor bagged the 3rd spot in the race. His tweet read, "Double whammy for Ajith kumar 3rd place in the 991 category and Spirit of the race in the gt4 category. What a remarkable comeback after an accident due to a break failure. #ajithkumar #AjithKumarRacing #24hdubai #AKRacing #DubaiRaceWeek end #racing."

During the practice session Ajith Kumar crashed his car into a barrier but was luckily left unhurt. Following the accident, the actor initially decided not to participate in the competition

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