

Dream project

Actor Sara Ali Khan will next be a part of the much-awaited historical war drama Sky Force

LEISURE | P2



Ceasefire talks resume

A meeting between negotiators is on in Qatar to finalise details of a plan to end the war in Gaza

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Wholesale inflation up

Wholesale price inflation rose to 2.37% in Dec 2024, due to spike in prices of non-food articles, manufactured items, fuel and power

BUSINESS | P11



Sindhu shines

PV Sindhu advances to the second round of the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament

SPORTS | P12

VOLUME 14, ISSUE 285 I www. orissapost.com

BHUBANESWAR | WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 15, 2025

Govt to probe BSKY 'corruption': Law Min

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: A day after Odisha government signed an MoU with the Centre for implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in the state, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan Tuesday said that thorough investigation will be carried out into the alleged corruption in the BJD government's Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY).

Addressing the media, Harichandan said, "Despite having BSKY cards, many people were denied the benefits they were entitled to. In several cases, patients were exploited, and hospitals charged bills without any regulation.

"Corruption was widespread, and several individuals connected to the previous government were involved in it. We will be launching a probe into these irregularities," he

The modalities for integrating (AB-PMJAY) with the state government's Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY) were also finalised Monday. The GJAY, formerly known as the BSKY, offers annual cashless treatment up to ₹5 lakh for male and ₹10 lakh for female members of a family.

On the other hand, the AB PM-JAY provides health insurance coverage of up to $\overline{\mathbf{5}}$ lakh per family every year. With these new arrangements, women beneficiaries will continue to receive the extra ₹5 lakh in the health

Earlier, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday slammed the previous Naveen Patnaik government for not implementing the 'Ayushman Bharat' scheme in the state, alleging that the BJD dispensation had deprived people of benefits of the health insurance programme for its own



DAUNTING TASK: People try to tame a bull as they participate in the 'Jallikattu' event as part of 'Pongal' celebrations, at Avaniyapuram in Madurai district, Tamil Nadu, Tuesday

CM: Mega steel plant in Keonjhar soon



Keonjhar, Jan 14: A mega steel plant will soon be established in Keonihar an agreement for which will be signed during the Utkarsh Odisha conclave.

This was stated here by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi while inaugurating a newly constructed bridge at Jhumpura in Keonjhar district this

On this occasion, speaking to the media, the Chief Minister said that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) will be signed for a mega steel plant in Keonjhar in Bhubaneswar on 28-29 of this month during the Utkarsh Odisha conclave.

He went on to add that priority is being given to ensure development in Keonjhar district. The project will be established to tap the abundance of mineral deposits in the district, the CM further said.

Majhi stated that efforts are being made for the development of all sectors such as education and health in the district.

Talking about the bridge, it has been built over a canal on Jhumpra-Ukhunda road which will connect people of Jhumpura block with Srirampur village.

The 67-mts-long bridge, with an approach road of 175 meters, will benefit 5,000 to 10,000 people per day along with people in nearby areas.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Switching to BSNL cured my phone addiction. It's like the world had forgotten my number!

Milk in mid-day meal House panel to summon Meta

A day after President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'Gift Milk' scheme for over 1,100 school students in Mayurbhanj district, the state government Tuesday announced introduction of cow milk in mid-day meals. Apart from serving nutritional requirements of children, the initiative is expected to help strengthen the economy of milk producers of the state. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi introduced Mukhvamantri Kamadhenu Yojana, a five-year initiative with a budget of Rs 1,423.47 crore, aimed at boosting milk production, September 13, 2024. The scheme aimed to support small dairy units, provide subsidised cattle feed, enhance livestock insurance coverage, and strengthen dairy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: State Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Minister Gokulananda Mallik Tuesday said the state government is planning to include 200 ml of fortified milk in mid-day meals for schoolchildren.

The minister's comment comes a day after President Droupadi Murmu virtually launched a 'Gift Milk' initiative of the National Dairy De-



velopment Board (NDDB) for the Odisha State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (OMFED) at Rairangpur in Mayurbhanj district.

Stating that the 'Gift Milk' programme was launched Monday in 29 schools in Rairangpur, the home town of the President, Mallik said the initiative aims at addressing malnutrition among children by providing 200 ml of milk fortified with Vitamin A & D on school days.

As many as 1,184 students in these schools, spread over 200 villages of the Rairangpur sub-division of Mayurbhanj district, will benefit from the NDDB's 'Gift Milk' programme in the first phase, which was introduced on a pilot basis, Mal-"The initiative will be ex-

tended to other parts of the state later," the minister said. Presently, around 44.5 lakh children of 51,500 primary and upper primary schools are being served with cooked food un-

der the mid-day meal scheme. The minister also said 3,000 high-quality cows procured from Gujarat are to be distributed among dairy farmers in Mayurbhani.

It is planned to spend ₹38 crore under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission launched by NDDB in Mayurbhanj. The minister said the objec-

tive of the initiative is to make dairy farmers self-sufficient and ensure a stable rural econ-He also said that the state aims to develop cattle wealth

in the state under the 'Mukhya Mantri Kamadhenu Yojana', a five-year initiative with a budget of ₹1,423.47 crore. The objective of the scheme

is to boost milk production in the state, he said. This scheme will support small dairy units, provide subsidised cattle feed, enhance

livestock insurance coverage.

and strengthen dairy coopera-

tives, he added.

for Zuckerberg's poll claims Dubev said in a post on X. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi, Jan 14: Seeking an

apology from social media giant Meta for 'tarnishing' India's image, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who heads the Parliament's Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology, said Tuesday that the panel will summon the firm following its chairman's comments that India's ruling dispensation lost the Lok Sabha election last year.

"My committee will summon Meta for this incorrect information. Incorrect information about any democratic country tarnishes its image. This organisation will have to apologise to the Indian Parliament and the people here for this mistake.'

He was reacting to Informa-

tion and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw's criticism of Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, who owns the controlling stake in the Meta group of companies, for making a 'factually incorrect' statement that the incumbent government in India lost the election in 2024 over issues arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic. "It is disappointing to see misinformation from Mr Zuckerberg himself. Let's uphold facts and credibility," Vaishnaw 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 added.

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.

"There is some sort of global phenomena, whether it was inflation because of the economic policies to deal with Covid or just how the governments dealt with Covid, seems to have this effect that is global, not just the US, but like a very broad decrease in trust, at least in the set incumbents and maybe, in sort of these democratic institutions overall," he said.

Delhi: Student linked to bomb threats

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police claimed Tuesday that a Class-12 student, who allegedly sent hoax bomb threats to more than 400 city schools, has been identified and that his parents are linked to an NGO that sup-

ports a political party Police, however, did not reveal the name of the political party and said further investi-

gation is underway. A police officer said the boy was questioned and during investigation, it was found that the NGO had also voiced support to Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

STEVE JOBS' WIFE FALLS ILL



AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 14: Late Apple co-founder Steve Job's wife Laurene Powell Jobs developed allergies on her second day at the Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj, but will participate in the ritual of taking a dip in the Ganga river.

Spiritual leader Swami Kailashanand Giri Tuesday told a news agency, "She will participate in the ritual of taking a dip (at the Sangam). She is resting in my 'shivir'. She has some allergies She has never been to such a crowded place. She is quite simple. She stayed with us during the pooja. Our tradition is such that those who have never seen it - they all want to join," Giri said

Ms Jobs arrived in Prayagraj Monday to attend the Maha Kumbh, which marks a rare ce lestial event in 144 years. Named 'Kamala" by Giri, she will stay in the Kumbh tent city at the Niranjini Akhara camp till January 15, before returning to the US to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Donald

Trump January 20.

Four runaway siblings' bid to make fortunes at Kumbh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 14: A video of Maha Kumbh showing people earning handsome profits, a ₹10,000 loan from a kind friend, and the grandeur of the largest human gathering on Earth have lured four siblings from Gorakhpur to Prayagraj.

While this could be anybody's story, what sets the four siblings apart is that they left home without informing their parents, bought a pushcart, and set up a tea and snacks stall near Kali Road in Prayagraj, quietly slipping into the sea of humanity that has descended on this holy city for the Maha Kumbh.

Requesting anonymity, the 22-year-old elder sister told this agency, "Our father is a policeman, while our mother is a homemaker. My father bears all the expenses for our education and running the household. It is painful to see



him struggle so much."

"One day, we came across a video of the Kumbh showing people earning good profits. My younger sister then sug-

gested that we should also set up a stall at the Kumbh. Our father was against the idea. So we ran away from home when he was out for duty, bought a

pushcart, and set up a stall near Kali Road." The runaway brigade comprises her 20-vear-old younger sister, and two brothers aged 15 and 17.

from a friend, and I pawned my earrings for ₹5,000. With this amount, we started this stall, she said. Asked about logistics, the

younger sister said, "We have

rented a room nearby, but we're

"My sister borrowed ₹10,000

so busy with work that we stay here even at night. Talking about their educational background, the elder sister said she is training to become a teacher, the younger sister is pursuing postgraduate studies, while the two brothers

are in school. "We dream of expanding this business -- first open a restaurant and then a small hotel. This stall is our first step to-

wards that goal," she said. Asked if the fair administration caused them any trouble, she said, "No, the administration has been very helpful. They only ask us to maintain cleanliness, and we ensure that

our stall is clean."



JESSICA SIMPSON CONFIRMS

Hollywood actress-singer Jessica Simpson and husband Eric Johnson have been living separately, and are mulling over how to navigate their future. Jessica confirmed the separation after 10 years of marriage

DICAPRIO FACES BACKLASH FOR FLEEING LA FIRES IN PRIVATE JET

Hollywood actor-producer Leonardo DiCaprio evacuated Los Angeles wildfires using a private jet with his girlfriend and parents, leading to backlash. His environmental advocacy was questioned on social media despite his history





You may get all nostalgic and wistful today, predicts Ganesha. You will go out of your way to improve your relationships. To vou. vour commitment is an investment for the future. The result is loving

TAURUS

You will spend your day in the company of near and dear ones, says Ganesha. Family and friends might gath er at your place and you will leave no stone unturned in welcoming them to your nest. In all probability, home makers will be able to shine in cooking as well as hosting, foresees Ganesha. Emotions will run wild and free with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha.

GEMINI

Today, you may be busy purchasing food supplies or penning an inventory. In your spare time, which you are likely to have in plenty today, you will try to befriend strangers or tread into unfamiliar territories. Such activities will not bring you any harm. A stroll with your sweetheart will nicely conclude a fairly eventful day,

You are feeling lucky today. The problem is that your feelings have nothing to do with the ground reality. So, while you may get busy trying your luck at risky speculative markets, Ganesha may get increasingly worried about the losses you may incur because of your foolishness.

Today, the force is with you. Well, at least part of the force that deals with being a smooth talker, says Ganesha. It is your power of expression that comes to the fore and stands you in good stead. Having mastered the art of communication, you now are a wizard of words who conjures showers of pearls with a mere twist of the tongue.

Take a break today, says Ga-

nesha. Replace the mundane with something exotic. Attend private dos and social meets and be

No matter what you do, happening. Considering the random mood swings that affect you today, it's in the best interest of others that you put up a 'Beware of me' sign. By being forewarned about it, you should be capable of handling your erratic behaviour. Just remember that nothing can affect your mental balance, and that this is just a phase.

SCORPIO

The day today is riddled with minor, nagging ailments. Adopt a two-pronged strategy, advises Ganesha. One - change your lifestyle, and two - visit your doctor for regular examinations. Ominous at his best, Ganesha counsels to take care of your health.

SAGITTARIUS

Appreciation for all that excellent work you have put in is a no-go for you! Yet, you stand to gain nothing by losing heart. While the acknowledge ment you look for has been delayed. Ganesha says it has not been denied and is in the offing already.

CAPRICORN

Your intuition will get the better of you today, bagging you respect and recognition, says Ganesha. But it's not every day that you get so lucky, so try and make the most of what's on the platter, for all you know, intuitions could have a mood swing too. Besides, if winning hearts is like a once-in-a-blue-moon thing, be on your best behaviour and wear your best suit it's a blue moon day for you today.

AQUARIUS

Your mood will swing by the hour today! Naturally, you leave your friends stumped. But unpredictability does not mean that you take unnecessary risk. Ganesha suggests you complete all pending projects, and bear in mind that it is only fools who rush in where angels fear to tread.

PISCES

A hectic day of socialising awaits you. You will discover hidden talents and unnoticed traits about yourself. Either that, or whoever brought them to your notice was only lying to get some socialising action of their own. You are a person of action, as well as of words, and hence, will go on to act on what you

have planned, says Ganesha.



SPLIT FROM ERIC JOHNSON

from her former NFL player husband.

of supporting eco-friendly initiatives. Ananya's 'sanctuary'

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday recently gave fans an exclusive

Kabhie Gham. Ananya's

preferences lean

peek into her home through a promotional video for Asian Paints'

series Where The Heart Is. Sharing the video on social media, she

wrote: "New year, same candid energy. This is just a glimpse of who I am when the cameras go off. I'm giving you a tour of my home with my parents on @asianpaints Where The Heart Is.'

Describing her home in three words—"warm, girly, cozy"—Ananya's sanctuary reflects her inviting and stylish

personality. Beyond its aesthetic appeal, she cherishes the

comforting sounds that make it special, especially her

dog's excited foot tapping and barking when she returns

a moment she likened to Jaya Bachchan's instinctive

recognition of Shah Rukh Khan in Kabhi Khushi

design

'eggy-

shades over

white'

stark white. She also

loves beachfront views and

embraces a "casual chic" style

On the professional front, the

Liger actress was last seen in

CTRL, a Netflix film by Vikramaditya Motwane. She has ex citing projects lined up, includ-

ing Chand Mera Dil, The Untold

Story of C Sankaran Nair, and

season two of Call Me Bae, with

rumors of a role in *Gully Boy's*

over glamorous looks.

towards

neutral favoring



Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Tuesday. The play was written and directed by Kailash Mallick.



the release of the film's trailer. If the sources are to be believed, the stunner kept herself grounded to connect with her role in the film. A source close to the project revealed, "Sara used to sit quietly on the set and focus on her script and delivery. She consciously avoided distractions on set to remain emotionally grounded for key scenes. Her approach allowed her to fully inhabit the role of a soldier's wife to be able to portray the dealing of hope and uncertainty perfectly together. She would neither use her phone nor anything else that could divert her attention. Sara will be seen essaying the role of the humble, strong, yet hopeful wife

of an army official played by Veer Pahariya in the movie. The project will also feature Akshay Kumar as Wing Commander K.O. Ahuja and Nimrat Kaur Apart from Sky Force, the 29-year-old ac-

tress will be seen in Anurag Basu's forthcoming drama Metro In Dino where she will share the screen with Aditya Roy Kapur. IANS



the day. Mafia and the underworld once cast a dark shadow on Bollywood. An old video of Bollywood megastar Shah Rukh Khan has surfaced on social media where he can be seen speaking about his brush with the dark side.

> dustry is the easiest industry to take on right now. We are the largest producers of films in the world. So they (the mafia) would back a film, and say 'I want you in my film'. They do try to back a film, and try to create a product They'll have four or five of their guys here and they'll say, 'Okay Shah Rukh, you have to do this film or X hero you have

He said in the video, "Hindi film in-

And, I would ask, 'Who's the producer?' they would then say, 'It's okay, this is the guy we're sending, you talk to him and sign the film" He further mentioned, "So if you are scared for life, then you sign it or if you're ready to take your chances.

you say no to it". When asked if he was ever threatened, he said, "Oh, yes, I've had it on many occasions. But then either you decide like I had a lot of security for three years with cops' Bollywood or the Hindi film industry was offi-

cially granted the industry status in 1998, thereby legitimising the film industry making it eligible for loans from financial institutions.

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

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

9

6

3

8 4

DOOFUS

3

8

2

6

8

9

1

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

3

9

2

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

SUDOKU

4

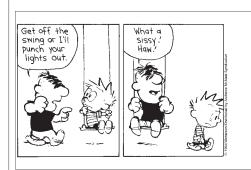
5

6

PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



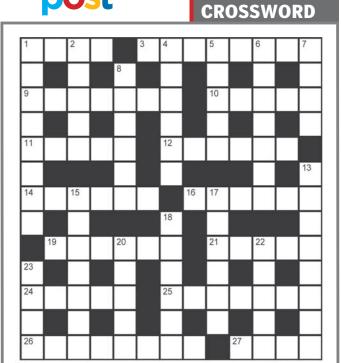




BREVITY



POST



Copyright @2025 PuzzleJunction.com 24 Monastery

- Across 1 Pickle barrel
- 3 Uncivilised
- 9 Worrywart 10 Up and about
- 11 River through
- Tours 12 Polish virtuoso
- pianist
- 14 Closed in on
- 16 Diamond
- pattern 19 Small cave

21 Man's man

- - - 4 Tack on
- 1 Jewelry item

25 Consultant

know

27 Organism

Down

26 Pilot's need-to-

- 2 Japanese
- restaurant
- offering

- 5 Opera cheer
- 6 Type of TV show
- 23 Spanish sparkling white wine

7 Gang

15 Circus

of

8 Field of activity

13 Chest muscle

performer

consciousness

18 In the direction

17 Return to

- 20 Rendezvous 22 Fine thread

S A I I W O B S E R V E IMPEL ORAL 1 6 9 5 3 2 4 7 8

SUDOKU

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

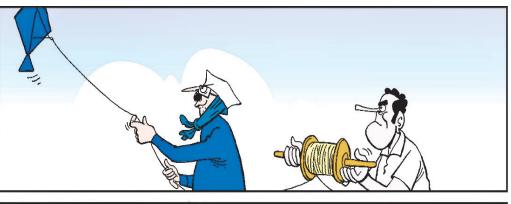
CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

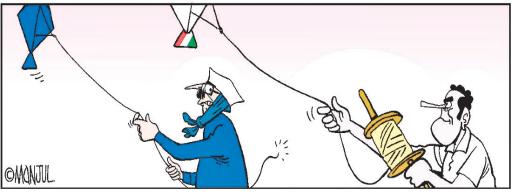
Artistes perform during an event organised at 'Adivasi Mela 2025' at Idco Exhibition Ground in Bhubaneswar.

CROWD PULLER

owntown

POLITICKLE by MANJUL





Hansita's high-profile pics mystery solved

Bhubaneswar: A former employee at a website run by arrested fraudster duo Hansita Abhilipsa and Anil Mohanty has ostensibly helped the police unravel the mystery behind the photographs of Hansita with top government officials. Jyoti Prakash Mund, 36, allegedly told the investigators that August 8 last year Hansita contacted him, requesting to edit one of her photographs by placing Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja alongside. "I could not turn down the request since I was associated with her for a long before quitting over non-payment of salary. Though I suspected something amiss, she evaded my queries," Mund said adding that she again put a request to edit another photo of her by placing Principal Secretary to PM PK Mishra by her side. December 26 Hansita allegedly contacted Mund again, asking him to delete both the photos as a police complaint had been lodged against her. "If police ask you about the pictures, tell them you did this for fun," Hansita allegedly told Mund. The

duo is presently lodged in Jharpada

jail for duping scores of businessmen

Queue darshan system at Srimandir from Jan 20

Bhuhaneswar, Jan 14: The queue darshan system at Srimandir would start from January 20, Law Minister Prithiviraj Harichandan said here

According to official sources, the new system incorporates a six-lane ramp enclosed by wooden collapsible barricades at Natamandap, situated opposite the sanctum sanctorum.

The new system will enhance visibility of the deities while devotees stand in queues.

The queue darshan system was first proposed to begin on New Year's Day. However, it was postponed in view of heavy rush at the temple for the New Year. "The queue darshan system will be introduced at the temple from January 20. We have completed all preparations required to implement the new system, which will streamline the public darshan," Harichandan told reporters.

Arrangements will be made for dedicated pathways for men, women and senior citizens, with provisions for differently-abled devotees planned

As per the new arrangements, the devotees will enter the 12th century shrine through the existing gate (Satapahacha), while exit will be made through two different gates.

Holy dips, 'Makar Chaula' mark Makar Sankranti



vith rangoli.

Community feasts were held in various parts of the state with Makar Chaula being the main attraction. It is a sweet dish prepared with newly-harvested rice, jaggery, grated coconut, banana, khua, various fruits and milk. It is also offered to Lord Jagannath.

Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and the CM

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: Lakhs of people across Odisha took dips in waterbodies Tuesday morning on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

After returning from New Delhi, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi went to his home in Keonjhar district and took a dip in the Baitarani River in Patna area. He then offered prayers at the nearby Shiva temple.



vest festival, is celebrated to mark the movement of the Sun northwards towards the Tropic of Cancer. It is dedicated to 'Surya' or the Sun God in the Hindu mythology.

Since morning, devotees thronged the Hatakeshwar temple at Atri in Khurda district, Dhabaleswar temple in Cuttack, Makara Muni temple in Balasore and Baba Baneswar temple in Sundargarh. In state capital Bhubaneswar, people offered prayers at the Lingaraj Temple. All these are temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Rush was also seen at the pilgrim town of Puri where people gathered in large numbers for the darshan of Lord Jagannath in Makar Chourashi Besha. The sibling deities are adorned with garlands of colourful flowers and holy basils on this day.

A massive crowd had gathered at the Chandrabhaga beach in Konark and the centuries-old Sun Temple in the early hours to catch a glimpse of the rising Sun. In Cuttack and Rourkela, people celebrated the festival by flying colourful kites.

In south Odisha, which has a sizable Telugu population, people decorated the front of their houses

greeted the people on the

"Heartfelt greetings and best wishes to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Makar Sankranti. Makar Sankranti marks the northward movement of the Sun (Uttarayan). As per our culture and tradition, the worship of the Sun brings happiness and prosperity to the family and society," the CM said.



"It is not only a religious festival but also a festival of brotherhood, social harmony and unity," he added.

AYUSHMAN BHARAT

'Interest' behind BJD govt's denial: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi Tuesday slammed the previous BJD government for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat scheme in Odisha, alleging that the BJD dispensation had deprived people of benefits of the health insurance programme for its 'interest'.

Majhi arrived at the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here in the morning from New Delhi, where he joined a programme on signing of a pact between the Odisha government and the Centre for implementation of the 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' Monday.

"Though the Centre implemented the Ayushman Bharat scheme in 2018, the previous BJD government did not launch

Loktantra Senani members felicitate CM

Bhubaneswar: Members of Loktantra Senani, an organisation representing individuals detained during the 1975 Emergency, Tuesday felicitated Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at Biju Patnaik International Airport here upon his return from Delhi over the state government's decision to provide pension and other facilities to those affected during the Emergency. The members of the organisa tion lauded CM Majhi-led BJP government for the significant step. "After 50 years our sacrifices are finally being acknowledged by the BJP government under CM Mohan Majhi," a Loktantra Senani member said

it in Odisha due to its personal interest," Majhi told reporters, adding that the BJP government implemented the scheme after coming to power in the state.

"The BJP, as the Opposition party, had demanded implementation of the Ayushman Bharat scheme. However, the then BJD government did not pay attention to our demand. Finally, the people ousted the BJD from power and elected us to form the 'double engine' government in Odisha. Our government has implemented the Ayushman Bharat scheme," he said.

The term 'double engine' is often used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre and in a state.

The scheme provides cash-

less cover of up to ₹5 lakh to each eligible family per annum for listed secondary and tertiary care conditions.

"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. Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Majhi said the BJD govern ment's Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana (BSKY) has been replaced by 'Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana (GJAY), and his dispensation has converged it with the Ayushman Bharat scheme

The CM said that 1.3 crore families of Odisha will benefit from Ayushman Bharat scheme and they are now entitled to get health service in around 30,000 health fa cilities, instead of about 900 hospi tals under the BSKY programme. This will also benefit the people of Odisha, who are working outside the state, he said.

"Over 23 lakh people who are 70 years and above will get benefits of the Ayushman Bharat," the CM said. The implementation of the Ayushman Bharat scheme in Odisha was one of the major promises made by the BJP in its election manifesto.

Attention Taxpayers

Income Tax Department extends key dates under

VIVAD SE VISHWAS SCHEME 2024

Date extended till 31st January 2025

KEY DATES_

File your declaration under the scheme on or before 31.01.2025 to pay lesser amount for settlement of appeal.

On filing declaration on or after 01.02.2025, the settlement amount becomes higher.



ELIGIBILITY

- · Appeal/writ filed on or before 22.07.2024 and such appeal/writ is pending as on 22.07.2024
- · Taxpayer who has filed objections before Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) and DRP has not issued any directions on or before 22.07.2024
- Taxpayer in whose case DRP has issued direction but Assessing Officer has not completed assessment on or before 22.07.2024
- Taxpayer who has filed an application for revision u/s 264 of the Act and such application is pending as on 22.07.2024

For more information on the scheme, see the FAQs issued by the department by visiting www.incometax.gov.in





Income Tax Department Central Board of Direct Taxes



CBC 15401/13/0012/2425

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OrissaPOST



'Veteran soldiers hold special place in hearts of countrymen'

9TH ARMED FORCES VETERANS' DAY



Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: Veteran soldiers have a special place in the hearts of the countrymen for their extraordinary service, sacrifice, dedication and indomitable enthusiasm for the country, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati said while attending the 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day event at 120 Infantry Battalion here Tuesday.

Lauding the veterans, the Governor said, "Our veterans embody the highest values of courage, dedication, and patriotism and we are grateful for their timeless service to the

bered their selfless service to the nation and said that the countrymen will be grateful to veteran soldiers for their important role in protecting the integrity, sovereignty and dignity of the country.

Armed Forces Veterans' Day is celebrated January 14 every year to recognise the service rendered by the first Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Field Marshal KM Cariappa, who retired on this day in 1953. The day was first celebrated in 2016 and it is commemorated every year since by hosting interactive events in the honour of the ex-servicemen.

Cariappa's leadership and vision will always inspire the army and every citizen. Veteran soldiers are unique examples of courage, commitment and patriotism. Soldiers who have giv en precious time of their lives in protecting the country's borders and protecting its honour are making great contributions to the development of the sociretirement. Everyone should think about their welfare by recognising their contribution.

The Governor highlighted the government's efforts to support veterans through improved pension, healthcare, and rehabilitation programmes.

Earlier, Brigadier (Retd) Antaryami Pradhan, president of the Odisha Ex-Servicemen League, delivered the welcome address, stressing the significance of Veterans' Day and the lasting impact of veterans on the country. During the event, brave women and senior vet erans were honoured, and the Governor launched an online



BUDDING TALENT: Children participate in school-level drawing competition organised by Odisha Chitrakala Academy at Gandhi Smruti Park near Netai Subhas Chandra Bose Setu in Cuttack, Tuesday

5th Nat'l Chilika Bird Festival ends with conservation push

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: The 5th National Chilika Bird Festival 2025 concluded on a high note, delivering a strong conservation message through a series of engaging events. The closing day featured a bird walk at Nandankanan Zoological Park, capping a week-long celebration of Odisha's avian biodiversity.

The festival, inaugurated January 6 at the Lok Seva Bhawan Convention Hall by Deputy Chief Minister Prayati Parida. attracted over 1.500 birders. nature enthusiasts, and natu-

Key attractions included well-curated birding trips to

Chilika January 7 and 8, offering participants stunning views

Mangalajodi wetlands. Bird

Anandabana were widely praised, with participants calling for more regular events to foster public interest in bird conservation.

The Regional Museum of Natural History hosted interactive activities such as photo and painting exhibitions, wildlife documentary screenings, and guided gallery walks. These events drew over 600 students and wildlife enthusiasts, creating opportunities to appreciate Odisha's rich birdlife

The Odisha Birders Conclave, held January 10 and 11 at Barkul, emerged as a festival highlight. Expert-led discussions, field excursions, and Chilika birding trips deepened conservation challenges and solutions.

The festival also offered NRIs visiting for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas guided tours to Chilika, Satapada, Barkul, and Mangalajodi, leaving them impressed by Odisha's efforts to preserve its natural heritage.

A milestone achievement was the tagging of two Greater Flamingos with solar-powered GSM-GPS transmitters by Odisha Wildlife officials and the Wildlife Institute of India. This initiative will aid in tracking migratory patterns and enhancing conservation strategies.

The festival reaffirmed Chilika's global significance as a haven for birdlife and a model

Odia youth key to building developed Odisha: Pradhan



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan lauded Odia vouth as the skilled architects of a developed Odisha and India. He made these remarks after interacting with Odisha delegates at the 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025' in Delhi Tuesday.

Sharing his thoughts on social media, Pradhan said, "An engaging and cherished interaction with the youth contingent from Odisha who shared their ideas and aspirations with PM Narendra Modi. Glad to host these young changemakers and learn about their experiences and takeaways. Their can-do spirit, innovative zeal and razor-sharp focus have solidified my optimism, particularly on the infinite potential of the goal of Viksit Bharat."

He emphasised the importance of nurturing hidden talents among the youth and shifting focus from content creation to wealth generation. "We must aim to become employers, not just job seekers. Self-reliance confidence, and respect are key to achieving our goals," Pradhan added.

Reflecting on the inspiring interaction with Odisha's youth during Makar Sankranti, he noted their dedication to the state's progress. He also highlighted the significance of upcoming milestones: the centenary of Odisha's separate province formation in 2036 and India's 100th year of independence in 2047. "We must ensure that Odisha becomes a global hub within the next 22 years working towards this goal as our collective responsibility,

WEATHER

CTC Max Temp Min Temp Humidity **FORECAST**

and mainly clear sky





CLASSIFIED

AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of an Affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Khordha, I, Purnima Senapati, W/o. Srinibash Sahoo, Resident of Vill./P.O. : Taraboi, P.S. : Jatni, Dist.: Khordha (Odisha) PIN: 752050 declare by this Affidavit No. 2319, Dtd. 09.12.2024 that onwards I shall be known as Purnima Senapati for all future purposes.

MAHALING DISCUSSES IT HUB PLANS WITH VAISHNAW

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: The state's Electronics and Information Technology and Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling met Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & IT Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi Tuesday to discuss plans for developing the state's IT sector and railway infrastructure in Bolangir district.

In a social media post, Mahaling expressed his gratitude to Vaishnaw for involving four

ductor education initiatives. "I thanked him for involving four universities of Odisha for semiconductor education," Mahal-

The meeting also focused on efforts to make Odisha a major IT hub. Vaishnaw highlighted the state's potential in sectors such as semiconductors, electronics, IT, IoT, and machine learning, which offer significant opportunities for youth.

Vaishnaw also discussed the establishment of a NILET University campus in Odisha, emphasising the importance



of a world-class educational facility to empower the state's vouth. "Once the necessary land is made available, we aim to create a world-class university," he said.

He urged the Odisha govern-

ment to allocate suitable land near Bhubaneswar to facilitate infrastructure projects that would strengthen Odisha's IT industry. Vaishnaw's vision for Odisha's future positions the state as a hub for technological advancements, benefiting both local communities and the broader economy

Recently, Union Minister Vaishnaw emphasised the ongoing efforts to make Odisha a major hub for the IT industry in his meeting with Chief Minsiter Mohan Charan Mahi during the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in

Khurda Road-Bolangir rail line advances with tunnel breakthrough

The 2.6-km-long tunnel T3. with a 2-degree curve, has been completed through the New **Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM)** of excavation

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: The Khurda Road-Bolangir New Rail Line Project achieved a major milestone with the successful breakthrough of the tunnel located between Buguda and Banigochha in Nayagarh district, the East Coast Railway said.

This 2.6-km-long tunnel, with a 2-degree curve, was

completed through the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM) of excavation. The breakthrough, or "daylighting", was successfully achieved Monday, marking an important achievement in the construction of this crucial public-centric Rail Line Project, it said.

This is the longest tunnel (T3) in Nayagarh district and the second longest in the entire Khurda Road-Bolangir ongoing rail line project, it added.

The tunnel's excavation employed state-of-the-art technologies and machines, designed to navigate the challenging and rugged terrain of the Eastern Ghats. This achievement will play a pivotal role in connecting the eastern and western parts of Odisha, boosting the region's transportation and economic potential, the statement said.



Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "A milestone showcasing engineering excellence in challenging terrains: A breakthrough has been achieved in the 2.6 km-long

Tunnel T3 (with a 2-degree curve) between Buguda and Baniguchha stations on the Khurda-Bolangir section in Odisha.'

The 301-km project includes

stretch, located between Daspalla and Purunakatak, The construction of these tunnels, particularly through the difficult terrain of the Eastern Ghats, has been one of the most complex aspects of the project.

The construction of these tunnels—particularly through the difficult terrain of the Eastern Ghats—has been one of the most complex aspects of the project.

Among these tunnels, Tunnel No 7, part of the longest at 4.885 kilometers, has already been completed, with other breakthroughs in Tunnel No 1. Tunnel No 3, and more.

The tunnels are being constructed using the latest techniques to manage complex geological conditions, including varying soil densities and rock formations.

The breakthroughs have

been completed in four of the

seven tunnels to date.

The Khurda Road - Bolangir Rail Line Project, crucial for improving regional connec tivity, has already seen significant portions completed.

A total of 215 km of the rai line has been completed -- 105.8 km between Khurda Road and Daspalla, and 109 km between Bolangir and Purunakatak, the statement said.

The remaining sections, including the stretch from Purunakatak to Adhenigarh, are progressing and expected to be completed in the coming months, an official said.

Once completed, this rail line will drastically reduce travel time between Bhu baneswar and Bolangir, contributing to the socio-economic development of the region by improving access to education, healthcare, and markets

ASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS CONTACT **BOOKING STATIONS**

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

Criminals from outside rule the roost in Jajpur



Jajpur, Jan 14: The mineral-rich and industrialised Jajpur district has turned into a safe haven for criminals, who are predominantly from outside the region. These criminals are committing crimes in broad daylight at crowded public places like roads, police stations, and even near the office of Superintendent of Police (SP) before escaping the scene. Robberies at iewellery shops have become alarmingly frequent.

Despite efforts by local law enforcement agencies, many perpetrators evade arrest, emboldening them to strike back. The majority of these criminals remain at large, while low apprehension rate prompts offenders to commit crimes in an organised manner.

In Kalinganagar industrial area, workers from outside the state are frequently employed through consultancy agencies from outside the state. This influx of people from states such as Bihar, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh has reportedly contributed to the rise in criminal activities. Persons with criminal records are hiding in colonies, slums near industrial and mining zones.

Efforts by the police to capture these offenders or people in hiding have yielded limited success, leaving many dangerous individuals untraceable. This has resulted in continuation of violent crimes, including armed robberies. The shocking loot and firing at 'Panda Alankar', a jewellery shop near the SP office at Panikoili, January 4, is a case in point where robbers shot dead two innocent people. The incident has raised serious questions

on public safety and efficiency

of the police. Even after seven

days, the cops have failed to ar-

rest three other culprits while

locals managed to capture two

of the robbers and hand them

over to the police. The arrested were identified as Shubham Saha, 33, alias Raja from Suhirdanagar village under Mofussil police station in Begusarai district, Bihar, and Madhukant Kumar, 24, alias Rana from Nagara Rampur village under Gaura police station in Saran district of Bihar. Police revealed that the two frequently change their names and addresses to avoid detection.

Residents of Jajpur are calling on authorities to enhance security measures, enforce stricter vigilance, and address the rising

their lives and property.

To gather more information about other suspects, the district police have filed a petition in Jajpur Road JMFC Court to take Raja and Rana on remand. Meanwhile, a separate police team has reportedly traveled to Bihar for further investigation.

Similarly, police have neither obtained significant leads nor arrested any suspects in the 2023 robbery at Senco Gold & Diamonds, a jewellery store in Jajpur Road. Observers believe that failure by the district police in apprehending the culprits has led to an increase in such incidents. Neighboring state police forces, however, have demonstrated greater effectiveness by arresting criminals, prompting offenders to relocate their operations.

It is suspected that some criminals have formed alliances with notorious gangsters and expanded their operations. Some high-profile gangsters lodged in jails reportedly continue to run their criminal empires with the help of these criminals. The intelligence unit of state police has been criticised for failing to monitor which suspects are being released from jail or track those fleeing the district. Furthermore, regular reviews of criminal cases are reportedly not being conducted, and senior police officials are allegedly avoiding active investigative roles. As a result, crime rates continue to rise, and external offenders are finding a safe haven in the district.

When contacted, Jajpur SP Yashpratap Shrimal did not respond to the phone call of this



MATTER OF FAITH: Around 30 lakh devotees took holy dip at the confluence of river Ganga and Bay of Bengal at Sagar Island in South-24 Pragana district of West Bengal, close to Bhograi in Balasore district, during Gangasagar Mela held on the occasion of Makar Sankranti, Tuesday

Book on wild plants unveiled at CU



KORAPUT: A book on 'Wild plants for Tribal Food and Medicine' jointly authored by Debabrata Panda and Suraj Kumar Padhi was released by the Vice-Chancellor of Central University in Koraput during an international conference, officials said Tuesday. This book gives an account of 115 important wild plants such as fruit, leaf, flower and tubers used by different tribal communities that have inhabited at Koraput valley, a part of Eastern Ghats of India. This book is prepared on the basis of fieldwork undertaken by the authors and data available in published literature. Data are collected from different major tribal groups such as Paraja, Bhumia, Gadaba, Bhatra, Saura, Gonda, and Kondha from the Koraput Valley of Eastern Ghats of

RSP bags 6 awards at Annual Flower Show

Kanan Botanical Garden in

Rourkela, Jan 14: The horticulture team of SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) won six awards at the Annual Flower Show 2025, organised by the Regional Plant Resource Centre (RPRC) in collaboration with the Plant Lovers' Association and Odisha Rose Society. The show was held at the picturesque Ekamra

the sidelines of 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas held at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar. Notably, the annual flower

exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi January 7, 2025. The event featured stalls from 70 agencies, corporate houses and nurseries from across the state. The exhibits included over 500 varieties of flowers, including roses, marigolds, dahl ias, zinnias, and ferns.

RSP participated in eight categories and bagged three first prizes in Cut Flower Gladioli, Cut Rose Hybrid Tea of different colours and Cut Rose Hybrid Tea of Red, One second prize in Cut Rose Hybrid Tea of Red and two other merit awards in the prestigious show.

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Suspected gangrape in Bargarh

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bargarh, Jan 14: A woman, who was rescued from Kurla jungle here in a critical condition Tuesday, is suspected to have been gangraped. The 24-year-old woman had gone missing in this town while watching Dhanu Yatra Sunday.

The woman battled for life since Sunday before she was rescued with severe injuries.

She was initially rushed to the district headquarters hospital (DHH) in Bargarh but later shifted to the Surgery department of VSS Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla for advanced care.

Police failed to record her statement as she was vet to regain sense. Circumstantial evidence indicates kidnap and gangrape, said the police. However, neither the woman's family nor the doctors treating her raised the issue

of gangrape, Bargarh sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Padarbinda Tripathy said.

Police said that the survivor visited Bargarh Sunday but did not return home. Family members then tried to contact her over phone but the cellphone was switched off. They began a frantic search and even informed the Bargarh police, but to no avail. Later, a person called her family from the woman's phone and informed them about the condition of the victim in Kurla jungle.

Meanwhile, another person also rang up the family members and informed them that the woman was lying unconscious in Kurla jungle. Based on the information, family members rushed to the spot and rescued the woman before admitting her to Bargarh DHH.

ସୋନୁ, ଛବିଲି, ତିତିଲି, ରିଶି, ଦାସ ପରିବାର

rare turtle species. 2 held for murder

over 'illicit affair'

Ganjam. Jan 14: The Rushiku-

lya Estuary in Ganjam district,

which has carved a niche for

itself in the world tourism map,

owing to its coastal ecosystem, is

currently witnessing the mating

of rare Olive Ridley turtles in its

blue waters. In the backdrop of

this, the Forest department has

stressed on the safety of these

Keonjhar, Jan 14: A day after Keonjhar police recovered the body of a 26-year-old man from Panupasi village under Ghatgaon police station in this district, the cops Tuesday arrested two persons in connection with the horrific murder, which is stated to be the fallout of an illicit relationship. The arrested were identified

as Prashant Naik and Ajay According to Subrata's fami-

ly members, he had stepped out for some work around 7pm Sunday, However, a few villagers found his body lying in a pool of blood near the house of one of the accused, Prashant Naik, Tuesday morning.

The deceased's family members suspect that the siblings, Prashant and Ajay, killed Subrata before dumping his body near their house.

On being informed, a team of Ghatgaon police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and started an investigation with the help of a scientific team.

Ghatagaon police station IIC Subhranta Kumar Jena said, "Both the accused have been arrested after we received prima facie evidence. The weapons used in the crime were also seized." The IIC also said it is suspected that the accused brother duo killed Subrata as the latter had illicit relationship with Prashant's wife.



THRUST ON SAFETY OF OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLES AT RUSHIKULYA

ment, large bales of these marine turtles have been observed mating in the area.

Berhampur divisional forest

POST NEWS NETWORK

FASTag introduced

on State Highway-10

Rourkela, Jan 14: FASTag system has been

introduced on L&T Biju Expressway or State

Highway-10, which extends from Rourkela to

Jagdalpur in Chattisgarh, much to the ease of

midnight. There was a long standing demand for

implementation of the FASTag system on this

road. Two toll gates, one near Masnikani and an-

other near Raigangpur, have been brought under

the FASTag system thus making travelling easier.

Sundargarh Collector Manoj Satyawan Maha-

jan took note of the public inconvenience due to

long waiting time at the two gates and directed

for implementation of FASTag. The Masnikani

gate was made operational from January 10

midnight while Rajgangpur gate was made op-

Expressing happiness over the development,

the Collector said. "This will make travelling

easier, safer and comfortable. Those who have

recharged their balance will be automatically

linked to the FASTag account. No extra money

Meanwhile, RTO Sundargarh and Rourkela

have already started an awareness campaign about

this new development. The teams are requesting

all to refrain from paying \cosh and make payment

will be deducted from their FASTag account."

Sundargarh RTO Parshuram Sahu said.

erational January 13 midnight.

The system came into effect from January 10

the commuters travelling on this busy road.

officer (DFO) Sunny Khokhar and assistant conservator of forests (ACF) Dibya Shankar Behera have personally visited Rushikulya Estuary and emphasised the importance of ensuring the safety of these turtles.

A large number of marine turtles, particularly Olive Ridleys, have chosen Rushikulya Estuary for their nesting.

After traveling thousands of kilometres across the ocean, from areas like Colombo, Japan, and the Kalmunai region, these turtles arrive at the Odisha coastline for nesting. In 2021-22, more than 5,50,000 Olive Ridley turtles laid eggs, and in 2022-23, the number increased to 6.37,000. Meanwhile, strong fencing work is going on from Purunabandha village to Podampeta village by the Forest department to protect the turtles and their eggs from prowling wild animals.

TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE

(A GRANT-IN-AID INSTITUTE UNDER DEPARTMENT OF

ATOMIC ENERGY, GOVT. OF INDIA) ULL TIME POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Date: 31.12.2024 (Advt. No. VAR/2024/013) Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) invites application for full time positions at Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital R Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Cancer Centre, Varanasi.

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l	1.	MEDICAL OFFICER 'E' (HAEMATOPATHOLOGY)	LEVEL 12
	2.	MEDICAL OFFICER 'E' (PLASTIC SURGERY)	LEVEL 12
	3.	MEDICAL OFFICER 'E' (SURGICAL ONCOLOGY)	LEVEL 12
	4.	MEDICAL OFFICER 'E' (MEDICAL ONCOLOGY)	LEVEL 12
		(BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT)	
I	5.	MEDICAL OFFICER 'D' (GENERAL MEDICINE)	LEVEL 11

ast date for online application is 29.01.2025 up to 05.30 P.M. (Indian Standard Time). For details visit our website https://tmc.gov.in Administrative Officer III (HRD)

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No. CAD-2176 e-Procurement Notice No. 47/OCCL/2024-25 (Online)

Type of Work: "Erection, Commissioning & Testing of vertical fixed wheel gates with their hoisting armagements, hois supporting structure & trestles, first stage embedded parts and second stage embedded parts including ladder of Ramanad iversion weir for Integrated Chheligada Irrigation Project"

01 (One) 120 (One Hundred Twenty) Days otal No. of Work Bid Identification | Cost of Tender Document (Including Tendering Officer No.

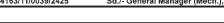
GST) through Online Transfer System Tender (Online) Bid (Online) 15.01.2025, 15.01.2025, Manager (Mech.), and Maintenance, OCCL-G.M./ Rs.7,080/-OCC Ltd., Central Workshop, E&M/09/2024-25 (Non-refundable) 24.01.2025. 24.01.2025. Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar

Date of Opening of Bid 27.01.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in).
Amendment/Corrigendum/Cancellation, if any shall be posted online only.
OIPR-34163/11/0039/2425 Sd./- General Manager (Mech.), Erection and Maintenance, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswa



SEVEN POACHERS ARRESTED FROM SIMILIPAL

Baripada: Forest department personnel, with the help of AI camera, have arrested seven poachers from Similipal Reserve Forest area in Mayurbhanj district and forwarded them to court Tuesday. The arrested were identified as Fagu Marandi, Lito Soren, Samay Soren, Kalidas Soren, Balia Soren, Nimay Soren and Balia Soren (2) - all residents of Upper Taldiha under Udala police limits. Forest officials said the poachers had entered into the Jenabil core area under south division of Similipal Tiger Reserve for poaching. A team of forest officials and Similipal Tiger Protection Force detained the poachers during patrolling and later arrested them. The team also seized traditional weapons from their possession.



250

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (AGRIL.), AGRIL. ENGG. DIVISION, CUTTACK AT/P.O.- NAYABAZAR, DISTRICT: CUTTACK- 753004 Phone No. (0671) 2952638 E-mail ID: eeagril.cuttack@gmail.com e-Procurement Notice : Dated 13.01.2025

GOVT. OF ODISHA

Bid Identification No.EE (AGRIL) Cuttack Division-07/2024-25 The Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agril. Engg. Division, Cuttack, Odisha on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in single cover system from the eligible class of contractors through e-procurement in ONLINE MODE only in the

website "www.tendersodisha.gov.in", for civil works / buildings in the district of Cuttack as detailed below Nos. of the work /nature | Approximate estimated cost | Cost of bid | EMD in (Rs.) put to tender (Excluding documents (in of work for which tender completion invited G.S.T.) (Rs. Lakh) Rs.) Total one work / Civil Rs.6000.00 1% of the 150 days construction / Electrical works valid MV/ mount put to works HT Electrical Beautification, landscaping

and MCM Cladding works Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal: 15.01.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 28.01.2025, 5.30 P.M.

Last date / time for receipt of bids in the portal : 28.01.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

Date of submission of original bid documents in the tender box: 15.01.2025, 10.00 A.M. to 29.01.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.

. Date & time of opening of original documents & verification: 30.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M. 5. Date & time of opening of Online bids: 30.01.2025 at 2.00 P.M. onwards.
The bidders have to participate in **ONLINE bidding only** in the e-Procurement website: https://tendersoridha.gov.in with natching class DSC. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender / other details of the DTCN can also be seen in the aid website. Authority reserves the right to reject / accept any or all of the tenders, increase / decrease the quantities of works

vithout assigning any reason thereof Sd./- Executive Engineer (Agril.), Agril. Engg. Division, Cuttack

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER **RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KENDRAPARA** eerw_kpd@yahoo.com INVITATION FOR BIDS (SHORT NOTICE) 'E' PROCUREMENT NOTICE NO. RWD / KPD-09 / 2024-25 DT. 09.01.2025 Kendrapara for the year 2024-: 05 Number of Road work 3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 7.86 Lakhs to 37.08 lakh 4. Period of Completion : As Specified in the Annexure Rs. 7.86 Lakhs to 37.08 lakhs approximately Class of contractors : As Specified in the Annexure Cost of tender paper : Cost of tender paper is to be remitted ONLINE as specified in column-5 of the Annexure Detail projects : As Specified in the Annexure Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Divisio Procurement officer 20.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M. to 29.01.2025 up to 5.00 P.M. online 28.01.2025 up to 5.00 P.M Last date & time of clarification d) Opening of Tender e) Decision to condu 30.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M If required, to decide the agency, transparent lottery shall be conducted on dt. **04.02.2025** at 11.00 A.M. in Lottery Office Chamber of the undersigned rom the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.i

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OIPR-25064/11/0015/2425

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(iii) Montessori Teachers – Grad. with NTT/Montessori Training (iv)PRTs & TGTs- English, Hindi, Maths, Science, SST, Telugu, Sanskrit,

v)Foreign Language Teachers—French & Spanish: Degree / Diploma in concerned subject

(vi)Activity Teachers - Art & Craft, Dance, PTI Music (Vocal & Instrumental) – Degree / Diploma in concerned subject

(vii)Administrative Officer - Grad./P.G. with 5 yrs of relevant experience

(viii)IT Support Staff - Grad./P.G. in IT/CS with 5 yrs exp (ix)E.A. to Principal - Grad./P.G. with 5 yrs exp in any school of

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Each new dawn brings the possibility of a new progress.

THE MOTHER



Ray of Hope

ountdown for the end of Joe Biden's presidency and the beginning of Donald Trump's second term as US President has begun and Biden appears to be desperate. He, it seems, wants to leave behind some legacy to remember him by. His effort to bring the warring Israel and Hamas to the negotiation table for establishment of peace probably is his focus. With that end in view he has spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the ongoing talks for a ceasefire in Gaza and underscored the "immediate need" for a truce and the return of Israeli captives held in the Palestinian enclave. The call on 12 January came as Biden pushed for a deal to stop the fighting before Trump returns to the White House 20 January.

The negotiations under the supervision of the US, Egypt and Qatar have, during the past one year, been repeatedly stalled yet US officials now express hope of sealing an agreement. The latest round is taking place in the Qatari capital, Doha, with the head of Israel's Mossad foreign intelligence agency, David Barnea and Biden's top Middle East adviser, Brett McGurk, attending the talks. The latter has reportedly been working on final details of a text to be presented to both sides as stated by Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser. However, there is uncertainty over whether a deal can be reached by 20 January. Hope, desperation and a degree of uncertainty were palpable in Sullivan's statement: "We are very, very close, yet being very close still means we are far because until you actually get across the finish line, we are not there." The hint of the talks not finally producing the desired outcome is dropped considering the influence the Far-Right ally of Netanyahu has on the latter's policy decision on amicable settlement of the decades-long conflict between Israel and Palestinians.

However, Netanyahu is aware of his predicament in domestic politics for his failure to get all the Israeli captives released from Hamas which is why he has thanked Biden for his lifelong support of Israel, according to the White House readout. He has previously signalled that he is committed only to the first phase of the ceasefire agreement, which envisions the release of some captives in exchange for a weekslong halt in fighting. Hamas, however, has insisted on a full Israeli troop withdrawal from the largely devastated territory. Issues in the talks have included which captives would be released in the first part of a phased ceasefire deal and which Palestinian prisoners would be released in a quid pro quo backdrop and also the extent of any Israeli troop withdrawal from populated centres in Gaza.

The talks are being held with Israel continuing its relentless bombardment of the Gaza Strip, particularly the north of the enclave, which has been subjected to a brutal siege for more than 100 days. Over 46,000 Palestinians, the majority of them being women and children, have so far been killed, while about 90 per cent of the territory's population has been displaced from their homes. The war, which some UN experts describe as "genocide," began in the aftermath of the Hamas-led attack on Israel on 7 October, 2023, in which Palestinian fighters killed 1,200 people and took some 250 captives.

There is, however, a ray of hope for durable peace this year when the UN is celebrating its 80th anniversary. This is the right time for the world body to be active but to establish the State of Palestine as the 194th UN member state seems a near impossibility. The upcoming UN Conference on Palestine, set for June 2025, can be important. The Trump administration has the golden opportunity to solve the vexed Middle East question for some time and push through a peace deal at the gathering in New York in June.

Despite the continuing conflict between Israel and Hamas-Houthis,

a small window of hope has nonetheless emerged. Almost the entire world has veered round the two-state solution of Israel and Palestine as the key to regional peace. Israel is also facing international isolation. The International Court of Justice is hearing a genocide case against Israel and the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants against Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant. Rights organisations, including Amnesty International, are accusing Israel of genocide. Meanwhile, Netanyahu seems unperturbed and some say it is high time that his allies in the West make him see reason for the benefit of all in the region and beyond.

WISDOM CORNER

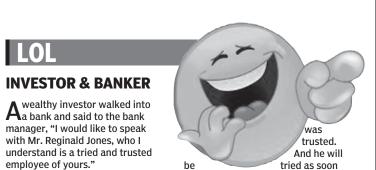
What we wish, we readily believe, and what we ourselves think, we imagine others think also.

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being

The reason a lot of people do not recognize opportunity is because it usually goes around wearing overalls looking like hard work.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- 1759: British Museum opened to the public. Established by an act of Parliament in 1753, the British Museum—which counts among its world-renowned antiquities and archaeological holdings the Elgin Marbles and the Rosetta Stone—opened to the public this day in 1759.
- 1870: The donkey appeared as a symbol of the U.S. Democratic Party in a Thomas Nast cartoon.
- 1892: The rules of Basketball are published. Canadian James Naismith invented the sport for his gym class at YMCA in Springfield, Massachusetts.
- 1919: Polish-born German revolutionary and agitator Rosa Luxemburg, cofounder of the German Communist Party, was arrested and murdered in Berlin for fomenting a communist uprising known as the Spartacus Revolt.
- 1973: Nixon orders ceasefire in Vietnam. The fighting continued anyway until the capture of Saigon by the Vietnam People's Army on April 30, 1975.
- 1992: Croatia and Slovenia are internationally recognized as independent nations. The Yugoslav federation effectively collapsed as a result.



as we catch him."

The banker said, "Yes he certainly



ODISHA'S HEALTH ASSURANCE WITH MODI'S GUARANTEE

n the history of Odisha's healthcare, January 13 will be recorded in golden letters. While 33 states of the country joined the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana of the central government, Odisha, along with two other states, had not implemented this scheme. The injustice done to the residents of the state has ended. We will become beneficiaries of the world's largest health insurance scheme. The opportunity to provide services to the state's residents, who were deprived of the benefits of the central scheme, was chosen with great enthusiasm. Odisha has found its place as the 34th state on the list. I extend my gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Health Minister Jagat

Prakash Nadda for this gift. You know that all countries, including India, are committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, which include ensuring universal health coverage so that everyone receives adequate healthcare. In line with this commitment, the Modi government at the Centre formulated the National Health Policy-2017 to ensure healthcare for the most backward sections. Following its recommendations, the Ayushman Bharat scheme was conceptualized as a major initiative of the Government of India. Ayushman Bharat comprises two interrelated schemes. The first is the Health and Wellness Centre, and the second is the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. In February 2018, the Government of India announced the transformation of 150,000 sub-centres and primary health centres across the country into Health and Wellness Centres. These centres provide primary comprehensive healthcare and reach people's homes. As a result, maternal and child healthcare, non-communicable diseases, essential medicines, and diagnostic services became accessible

Although the then-state government implemented the first scheme, it did not implement the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana under Ayushman Bharat. Perhaps due to the presence of the word 'Prime Minister' in this central scheme, the interests of the state's residents were sacrificed for political gain.



It is estimated that every year, about six crore people in India are pushed into poverty due to high medical expenses. The significant aspect is that the scheme covers pre-hospitalization diagnostic costs three days before admission and post-hospitalization medication costs for upto 15 days

Our state's youth, who had to work as migrant laborers in other states, were denied the right to access healthcare in the best hospitals abroad. Considering this as a sin, we resolved to implement the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in Odisha if we came to power, which we are now going to fulfill. Although this scheme was launched by honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 23, 2018, it will be implemented in our state from the coming

The Ayushman Bharat scheme is the world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme, for which all necessary expenses are borne by the government. It is estimated that every year, about six crore people in India are pushed into poverty due to high medical expenses. The significant aspect is that the scheme covers pre-hospitalization diagnostic costs three days before admission post-hospitalization medication costs for upto 15 days. The scheme includes medicines, diagnostic services, doctor's fees, bed and room charges, surgeon's fees, operation theater, and ICU costs, among others. However, such a remarkable and revolutionary health scheme was kept away from the people of our state just for political reasons

A memorandum of understanding has been signed in my presence to include Odisha under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana by the National Health Authority of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and our state's health department. In the virtual presence of the esteemed Prime Minister Narendra Modi. I was present at the signing ceremony chaired by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers, Mr. Jagat Prakash Nadda. Along with me were Union Education Minister Mr. Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Tribal Affairs Minister Mr. Jual Oram, Union Minister of Railways, Communications, and Electronics and Information Technology Mr. Ashwini Vaishnaw; Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, and Odisha's Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Parliamentary Affairs, and **Electronics and Information** Technology Dr. Mukesh Ma-

On this occasion, I would like to inform you that the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana will be implemented in coordination with the existing Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana. It will provide insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh per family annually and an additional ₹5 lakh for mothers, totaling ₹10 lakh. You will be pleased to know that this is not only the world's largest health scheme but also the fastest-acting scheme in operation. This scheme is self-contained and digitally operated, ensuring zero errors. About 45% of the country's population is included

in it. Since the launch of this scheme, a record of 8.19 crore people have been admitted to hospitals, and ₹1.13 lakh crore has been spent to provide healthcare to the neglected sections of society. Under this scheme, approximately 2,000 treatment procedures are included in 27 types of specialty medical departments, including major surgeries like bypass surgery and knee replacement. People in our state, who previously received treatment in about 900 listed hospitals, can now avail of cashless treatment in over 29,000 listed government and private

hospitals across the country. This opportunity is very important for Odisha; it will transform the health status of 86% of Odisha's population and provide free treatment facilities in good hospitals for my working brothers and sisters living outside Odisha, saving their precious lives.

Indeed, by signing this memorandum of understanding, we have achieved two milestones. First, we have fulfilled our electoral promise and added a new chapter to the development story of Odisha's healthcare sector. It would be right to say that this is another progressive step towards achieving the goals of 'Developed India' and 'Excellent Odisha.' Through this scheme, the people of Odisha and migrant Odia workers will have access to affordable and quality healthcare across the country. This will benefit 1 crore 3 lakh families in the state. Through this, 23,12,979 senior citizens above 70 years of age in the state will also be able to avail free treatment facilities. Senior citizens above 70 years of age from any economic class, whether rich or poor, will be included in this scheme.

Government schemes intended for the people should benefit the related beneficiaries. I humbly request all public representatives of the state, all officials, employees, social organizations, and conscious citizens associated with this scheme to actively participate in it. With the infinite compassion of Lord Jagannath, may the people of Odisha remain healthy, this is my prayer. Jai Jagannath!

The writer is Chief Minister, Odisha

IN JEST THIS

Mohan Charan Majhi

THE AYUSHMAN

BHARAT

LARGEST

HEALTH

SCHEME IS

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EXPENSES ARE

BORNE BY THE

GOVERNMENT

SCHEME, FOR

Nothing wrong with living with your parents



Melvin Durai

THE BENEFITS OF STAYING HOME MAY INCLUDE SAVING MONEY ON RENT AND ENJOYING YOUR MOTHER'S COOKING

any internet forums allow people to post comments anonymously. Users don't know much about each other, but are still able to have civil discussions. Some users, however, get a kick out of trolling other users, posting something that's designed to offend or provoke. On a British forum about Tottenham Hotspur Football Club, for example, a troll might write, "Congratulations to Keir Starmer! He's our sixth prime minister since Spurs last won a trophy.

Most people ignore these trolls, but some decide to hit back at trolls with a big insult of some sort. And quite often the insult goes like this: "Perhaps you need to move out of your parents' house and get yourself a job!"

In America, the insult might go like this: "Dude, you should really consider moving out of your mom's basement."

The basement is usually below ground level and has small windows, making it the least appealing part of a home. Living in a basement is like living in a cave, except you don't have to light a fire to keep the wild animals away. You can just leave the TV on all night.

TV on all night.

If you're a man, this insult is intended to be doubly offensive. It's not just about living in a basement — it's about living in your mother's basement. Living in your father's basement is acceptable, apparently. (This insult assumes that your parents are not living together — or that your mother has sneakily removed your father's name from the home documents.)

While living with your parents in your mid-twenties or later has been frowned upon in western cultures for generations, it's been common practice in Indian culture. Why leave the comfort of home, where you don't have to pay rent and can enjoy mom's cooking? But more young people are leaving home as part of a recent trend. Many of them are taking pride in living independently, even if they're single. Those who still live with their parents sometimes

feel like they're missing out

on some fun and have failed to take an important step in their lives.

Aryan Kocchar, co-founder of the fintech company Fin-Floww, recently addressed this issue with a post on X. "Living with parents in your mid-20s isn't a 'failure'—it's financial wisdom in a world where rent eats 50% of your income," he wrote. "But hey, keep chasing 'independence' while you're broke, lonely, and eating ramen for dinner. Choose your struggles wisely."

You certainly can save a lot of money by living at home, but there are also benefits to living on your own, as people responding to Kocchar's post noted.

"Totally disagree," one of them wrote. "You don't grow out of the environment you were first moulded in. Being broke, lonely, and eating ramen for dinner will help ignite the fire you need and the days you see to be self-made. If you live with your parents in your mid-20s, you are by default a carbon copy of the things you like and don't like about them."

Everybody's situation is unique, of course. It's easy to make judgments from the outside, but each person needs to weigh the benefits and drawbacks carefully before making

a decision.

The benefits of staying home may include saving money on rent and enjoying your mother's cooking. If you don't like to live alone, you may be happier living with your parents (and perhaps siblings). It's not just about your happiness, of course—you may also be useful to your parents, perhaps giving them rides in your fancy new car that you couldn't have afforded if you were paying rent.

The drawbacks of staying home may include having to tolerate an unhealthy atmosphere. Some parents may be controlling or abusive. Being too dependent on your parents may also keep you from developing important life skills. You can't rely on your parents forever. Your mother won't always be around to wake you up in the morning, and your father won't always be around to yell at you for leaving the lights on.



TWO STATES





Charaideo Maidams receive World Heritage certificate

The certificate for 'Maidams - The mound burial system of Ahom dynasty' was given by UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Culture Ernesto Ottone Ramirez Monday in the presence of India's ambassador to France Vishal B Sharma

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 14: The World Heritage Certificate of Inscription from UNESCO for the Charaideo Maidams was received by Assam's Culture Minister Bimal Bora in Paris.

The certificate for 'Maidams The mound burial system of Ahom dynasty' was given by UNESCO's Assistant Director General for Culture Ernesto Ottone Ramirez Monday in the presence of India's ambassador to France Vishal B Sharma.

"A grand Magh Bihu gift for Assam as the Charaideo Maid-



Heritage Site List. 2024 was indeed a good year for Assam and 2025 promises to be better.'

The Union Ports Min-**Maidams** is ister Sarthe first cultural bananda Sonowproperty from the al also hailed **Northeast to get** the recognition. the coveted "A grand tag

gift for Assam as the Charaideo Maidams get the official World Heritage Site Certificate

Magh Bihu

ams gets the official World Heritage Site Certificate of Inscription from UNESCO," Bora posted on X Tuesday.

"My congratulations to every Assamese on this proud moment," he said.

He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and CM Himanta Biswa Sarma for their support and efforts, which have culminated in achieving this milestone.

Sarma said, "Bhogali Bihu wishes straight from @UNE-SCO and what's sweeter? We have received the official certificate of Charaideo's inscrip tion into the prestigious World of Inscription from UNESCO. My congratulations to every Assamese on this proud moment," he said.

The Maidams is the first cultural property from the Northeast to get the coveted tag. The decision to recognise it was taken at the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee held in India in July.

It is the first time a site from the Northeast has made it to the UNESCO World Heritage List under the cultural category. The Kaziranga and Manas national parks are the other World Heritage sites from As-

emains of Ahom royalty

World Heritage sites are classified into cultural, natural, and mixed categories.

Maidams represent the late medieval (13th-19th century CE) mound burial tradition of the Tai Ahoms dynasty, which ruled for 600 years. Out of 386 Maidams explored, 90 royal burials at Charaideo are the best preserved, and most complete examples of this tra-

The Charaideo Maidams, which are highly venerated, enshrine the mortal remains of Ahom royalty.

Initially, the deceased were buried with their personal belongings and other paraphernalia, but after the 18th century, the Ahom rulers adopted the Hindu method of cremation and later entombed the bones and ashes in the Maidams.

The Maidams are a distinctive type of funeral architecture of the state in the geo-cultural context of South Asia and Southeast Asia. Charaideo for the Tai Ahoms, who are ancestor worshippers, is the final resting place of their 'Swargadeos' (kings like Gods), other royals and ancestors.

Naidu launches dvpt works in native village

After actively taking part in Sankranti celebrations in the morning along with local leaders of his Telugu Desam Party, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister later laid the foundation stone for roads to various places in Chandragiri mandal, electric sub-stations, school buildings and other developmental activities

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Amaravati, Jan 14: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who is on his visit to his native village, Naravaripalle in Tirupati district, for the Sankranti festival along with his family members, spent Monday attending development and welfare programmes organised locally.

The Chief Minister, who keeps himself busy every day, did not take a rest even on the festival dav

After actively taking part in Sankranti celebrations in the morning along with local leaders of his Telugu Desam Party, he later laid the foundation stone for roads to various places in Chandragiri mandal, electric sub-stations, school buildings and other developmental activities.

The state government entered into an agreement with Easy Mart to supply quality essentials at very reasonable prices. To bring awareness among the people, this occasion was utilised by several women by purchasing essen-

The representatives of Easy



Mart informed Chandrababu Naidu that currently their organisation is operating only from Kuppam and soon various branches will be opened in different parts of the Tirupati district.

The Chief Minister also distributed 15 subsidised electric autos for women under the Self-Employment Scheme and the officials informed him that fuel to the extent of ₹15,000 per month can be saved through these electric three-wheelers. An agreement was also entered into with the Care and Grow organisation to bring 100 per cent physical, mental and behavioural readiness among children at Anganwadi centres.

Education, IT and Electronics Minister, Nara Lokesh, was also present on the occasion.

Naidu laid the foundation for the Zilla Parishad high school building at Rangampet of Chandragiri mandal to be built with

₹1.10 crore, for cement roads at Kandula Vari Palle, Chinna Ramapuram and A Rangampet villages to be taken up with ₹3.2 crore and for an electric sub-station at Naravaripalle being constructed with ₹4.27

He also laid stone for various other developmental works in the area. Drips and sprinklers were also distributed by him to the farmers as part of a mi cro-irrigation scheme.



Women in traditional Assamese attire dance during celebrations of the 'Bhogali Bihu' festival, in Nagaon district, Assam

Cockfights, gambling dominate Sankranti festivities

Under the active patronage of local leaders, politicians and police turning a nelson's eye, the cockfight venues are thronged by thousands of people where liquor flows freely

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhimavaram (Andhra Pradesh), Jan 14: Akin to every Sankranti festival in Andhra Pradesh, several villages and towns in the state have transformed into hubs of three-day extravaganza featuring the controversial blood sport of cockfights and associated gambling, starting from

Beginning on Bhogi festival day, the annual affair involves thousands of well-fed and trained roosters being pitted one against another. Equipped with scalpel-sharp knives tied to their legs, the birds battle to secure fortunes for their owners and punters.

Cockfight duels are major gambling attractions, with roadside venues or arenas near lush green paddy fields and palm trees drawing crowds, particularly in the Godavari districts. Betting in these regions alone is estimated to



involve hundreds of crores of

Under the active patronage of local leaders, politicians and police turning a nelson's eye, the cockfight venues are thronged by thousands of people where liquor flows freely.

Amid the punters' fanfare and expectations, grievous bleeding injuries are guaranteed to both the fowls involved in every duel while death is also guaranteed to most.

At a village near Bhimavaram in West Godavari district, a large makeshift cockfight venue was erected by the road leading to Vijayawada. It included LCD screens, a segway transporter, parking areas for hundreds of cars and two-wheelers, seating gallery, public address system makeshift food and beverage

outlets. A few meaway tres the from cockfight ring,

a large airconditioned tent was erected where tables and chairs have been arranged for

"It is a different experience altogether here in the Godavari region for Sankranti. Sankranti is a very simple affair with minimal celebrations for us,

unlike the cockcelebrants from fights. free abroad and across flow of gamthe country converge on Bhimavaram and nearby villages bling money every Sankranti for gambling and the and unpreccelebrations

Although courts have prohibited cockfights and police claim to take action against it by ploughing the venues and seizing knives, this blood sport continues unabated year after year and is only grows Krishna, larger by the year

software engineer who divides his time between Kamareddy and Hyderabad told

edented

varam,

Nitturi

Vamshi

hospitality

in Bhima-

Undi MLA and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Speaker K Raghu Ramakrishna Raju visited a cockfighting venue near Bhimavaram Monday. The organ-

TDP leader for the facilitation of the sport, which drew hundrends of gamblers.

As hundreds of people gambled on one cockfight after the other, Raju, who was the chief guest at that venue, enjoyed the proceedings from a vantage point.

Festival celebrants from abroad and across the country converge on Bhimavaram and nearby villages every Sankranti for gambling and the celebra-

Although courts have prohibited cockfights and police claim to take action against it by ploughing the venues, and seizing knives, this blood sport continues unabated year after year and is only grows larger by the year.

Sankranti Andhra Pradesh is not limited to cockfights and gambling. The festival also features traditional games like kabaddi, rangoli (muggulu), singing, dancing, and various competitions. Women compete to create vibrant and intricate rangoli designs in front of their homes. showcasing colorful themes.

At Navduru Junction near Veeravasaram, about 10 km away from Bhimavaram, under the aegis of leaders belonging to the ruling coalition, a large Sankranit celebration has been

At Bhimavaram Housing Board Monday night, singing, dance and other competitions were held for Sankranti festival celebrants to win prizes.

DEWATERING EXERCISE UNDERWAY

Navy divers withdrawn from rescue ops in Assam coal mine

Nine workers were trapped inside the mine in Umrangsu January 6 after a sudden gush of water flooded the quarry

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Jan 14: Navy divers have been withdrawn from rescue operations at a coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district with the hope of survival of five trapped labourers appearing to be slim even as dewatering exercise entered the ninth day Tuesday, officials said.

Dewatering of the quarry, which is 340 feet deep, continued with specialised machines brought in by ONGC and Coal India. The water level, which was initially at 100 ft, is coming down gradually and Monday, it further receded by 3 metres, an official said. It was difficult to say when the water would be 'completely cleared or when the rescue and search operations inside the quarry would resume', he added. "Navy divers, who were requisitioned for rescue operations since January 7 have been withdrawn and moved out of the site," another official said.

Nine workers were trapped inside the mine in Umrangsu January 6 after a sudden gush

of water flooded the quarry. Four bodies have so far been

recovered, the official said. "The hope of survival of the remaining trapped miners ap-



main trapped for the ninth day. However, the rescue operations will continue," he said. Dewatering is being carried

out with the help of nine pumps while six more have been installed for use if required, he

The rescue operations were being conducted jointly by the army, Assam Rifles, NDRF SDRF and district administra tion. An underwater remote-operating vehicle was also being sent inside the quarry at regular intervals to capture images of the trapped miners, the official said. The first body was recovered January 8 and three others Saturday. The chief minister had earlier claimed that the mine was abandoned 12 years ago and was under the Assam Mineral Development Corpora-

tion till three years ago. He said that the leader of the workers has been arrested, and the police are conducting inves tigations into the case.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking a SIT probe into the mining tragedy in Assam.

national



Our soldiers have made huge sacrifices for the country. In all the wars fought by the country, our soldiers sacrificed their lives for protecting our country

TRAIN COACH DERAILS IN TN

A coach wheel of a MEMU (Mainline Electric Multiple Unit) train bound for Puducherry derailed at the railway yard Tuesday during the shunting process and no one was injured, the Southern Railway said





panch Santosh Deshmukh, we all have said whoever is involved in it will not be spared. It was a brutal murder. The culprits must face the strongest punishment AJIT PAWAR | MAHA DY CM

Maoism is like cancer. If cancer has Maoists had

stuck like leeches in some areas of Bastar and were exploiting the people by intimidating them. These places were their safest hideouts. We decided to attack Maoists by entering

VISHNU DEO SAI CH'GARH CM

BJP and Aam Aadmi Party are making allegations against each oth-

er. BJP is alleging that so many crores have been spent on CM House or 'Sheesh Mahal'. Aam Aadmi Party says that so much money was spent on PM House or 'Raj Mahal'

SACHIN PILOT | CONG LEADER

SHORT **TAKES**

Justice Upadhyay new CJ of Delhi HC

New Delhi: Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyay, was Tuesday appointed as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. The Supreme Court Collegium had January 7 recommended his transfer. Justice Vibhu Bakhru is currently serving as acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court after Justice Manohan was elevated to the Supreme Court. In a related development, Justice Alok Aradhe, Chief Justice of Telangana High Court was posted as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

Man, woman found murdered

woman were found brutally murdered in Puppalaguda area under Narsingi police station limits here Tuesday, police said. Some local youngsters who had gone atop a hill in the area on Tuesday morning noticed the bodies and informed the Police on 'Dial-100', who reached the spot and took up the investigation. Both the deceased are in the age group of 30-35 and they are suspected to have been killed Monday night, a police official told the media based on a preliminary investigation.

Asaram gets interim bail

Jodhpur: The Rajasthan High Court Tuesday granted interim bail till March 31 to self-styled godman Asaram, who is serving life imprisonment in a 2013 rape case. This comes a week after the Supreme Court granted him bail till March 31 in another rape case, observing that he suffered from various ailments and needed treatment. Soon after the top court granted him relief on medical grounds, Asaram's counsels moved a suspension of sentence plea

Student jumps to death from hostel

in the high court.

Nagpur: A 16-year-old boy allegedly committed suicide by jumping off the roof of his hostel in Maharashtra's Nagpur district Tuesday, police said. The incident occurred in the Wanadongri area under the MIDC police station in the morning, an official said.

DEATH OF INDIAN NATIONAL IN RUSSIA

Release all Indians serving in Russian military, says MEA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: India Tuesday pressed Russia to release all the Indians recruited by the Russian military, following the death of another Indian national in the Russia-Ukraine conflict zone, taking the death toll to 10.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said an Indian national from Kerala has died and another has sustained injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Moscow. Jaiswal said the matter has been strongly taken up with Russian authorities in Moscow as well as with the Russian embassy in New Delhi.

"We have also reiterated our demand for an early discharge of the remaining Indian nationals," he said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had strongly raised the issue of early discharge of the Indian nationals working in the Russian Army during his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow in July

The death of Binil TB, who hailed from Thrissur, was made public Monday by one

Kerala HC grants bail

of his relatives. Though the MEA did not provide the circumstances of his death, he reportedly died on the frontlines of the conflict in Ukraine.

According to official data, nine Indians died while serving in the Russian Army in the last few months. Binil's death has taken the toll to 10. 'We have learnt of the unfortunate death of an Indian national from Kerala, who had apparently been recruited to serve in the Russian Army,' Jaiswal said

"Another Indian national from Kerala, who was similarly recruited, has been injured and is receiving treatment in a hospital in Moscow," he said. The MEA offered condolences to the family of the deceased.

"We offer our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased. Our embassy in Moscow is in touch with the families, and all possible assistance is being rendered," Jaiswal said. "We are working with the Russian authorities for an early transportation of the mortal remains to India. We have also sought an early discharge and repatriation to India of the injured person.' he said in a statement.

Student behind bomb threats linked to NGO

New Delhi, Jan 14: The Delhi Police claimed Tuesday that a Class XII student, who allegedly sent hoax bomb threats to more than 400 city schools, has been identified and that his parents are linked to an NGO that supports a political party.

however, political party and said further investigation is underway. A police officer said the boy was questioned and during investigation, it was found that the NGO had also voiced support to Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru.

According to police, the NGO's proximity to a political party raises critical questions regarding a possible larger conspiracy to create public unrest through disruptive tactics. Addressing a press conference. Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Madhup

DELHI SCHOOL BOMB THREATS

Tewari said they were tracking e-mails and because of a virtual private network (VPN), it was difficult to track the origins of the e-mails.

Police also had to ascertain whether there was a terror an gle to it, he said, adding that service providers were not able to help either due to the use of the VPN. "Our teams tracked the minor following recent e-mails January 8. As the e-mail sender was a juvenile, the teams took his laptop and mobile phones for a forensic examination," Tewari said.

The juvenile confessed to his crime and it was established that he was involved in several previous instances of similar threats sent to more than 400 schools in Delhi, including 250 threats May 1 last year. "The accused used multiple anonymous and encrypted e-mail service providers and advanced tools to conceal his identity," the officer said. The police teams tracked 400 threat e-mails sent by the minor. They also checked the background of his father, who has been working with the NGO, and found out that the organisation is part of a civil society group that has been raising issues regarding the hanging of Afzal Guru and is also helping a political party.

In a statement, police said the NGO has a longstanding association and deep connections with a political party. "This NGO is known for advocacy for the political party in open public domains. From a further analysis of the NGO's details, it was learnt that it is known for its stand on opposing the hanging of Afzal Guru, a convicted terrorist involved in the 2001 Parliament attack, and

open advocacy for supporting a particular political party on various issues," police said.

BJP, AAP face off

New Delhi: The issue of hoax bomb threats to more than 400 schools in the capital triggered a political storm ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls Tuesday, with the BJP raising questions about the possible links between those involved and the AAP, prompting the latter to strongly rebuke the claims. A police officer said the boy was questioned and during the investigation, it was found that the NGO also voiced its support to Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru. While the police did not name any political outfit, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sudhanshu Trivedi termed the probe findings "very sensitive and serious", asking Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal if his party has any connections with the case.

'Avaniyapuram' Jallikattu held; participant killed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Madurai (Tamil Nadu), Jan 14: The popular Avaniyapuram 'Jallikattu,' bull taming sport was held here Tuesday on the day of harvest festival 'Pongal,' and the owner of the bull declared as best, won a tractor as prize, and the bull tamer de clared first got a car.

A bull tamer was killed and atleast 10 were injured. As the bulls, smeared with sandalpaste, leaped out of the 'Vadivasal,' the entrance to the sporting arena from the enclosure for animals enthusiastic young men, one after the other, tried their best to get a hold around the bull's hump to emerge the winner.

While the men and bulls were engaged in a nerve-racking game to outsmart each other the spectators thronged the venue to get a first hand experience and a few boys and girls too ran into the arena out of sheer excitement and the day turned ou be fun and frolic for them. While tamers did try their best to embrace every bull, their efforts turned futile in respect of some bulls as they were frightened by the menacing looks and posture of the animals.

The sporting event also had its share of distressing moments as a young man, Navin Kumar, was gored to death by a bull and atleast 10 others sustained injuries. Some clashes also took place such as a minor incident between a few players and a bull owner. Malayandi, the owner of the bull adjudged the best for successfully dodging many tamers received a tractor as first prize and Karthik, named the outstanding player for subduing as many as 19 bulls got a car as



A multi-storey building tilts to the side, in the Baghajatin area of Kolkata, West Bengal

MAHAKUMBH 2025 Railways' grand preparations

to Boby Chemmanur PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kochi, Jan 14: The Kerala High Court Tuesday granted bail to prominent businessman Boby Chemmanur, who has been arrested and is in judi-

cial custody in a sexual harass-

ment case filed against him by

Malayalam actor Honey Rose. Justice P V Kunhikrishnan granted the relief to Chemmanur after noting that the offences the businessman was accused of carry sentences ranging from one year to three years and the Supreme Court has observed that where the punishment is seven years or less, an accused cannot be arrested by the police without

sufficient reasons. "In the light of the above principle. I think the petitioner can be released on bail after imposing stringent conditions... Moreover, it is a well accepted principle that the bail is the rule and the jail is the exception," the judge said.

Mahakumbhnagar, 14: The Mahakumbh 2025 is attracting tourists and devotees with its divinity and grandeur. Held every 12 years, this year's Prayag Mahakumbh expects over 40 crore people for a holy dip at the Sangam. Participants will include not only people from the Indian subcontinent but also travellers from

more than 100 countries. Indian Railways will play a crucial role in ensuring accessible, convenient and safe travel for all, contributing significantly to the successful organisation of Mahakumbh.

Seers from various 'akharas' took the first 'Amrit Snan' at the Maha Kumbh on Makar Sankranti Tuesday as an unbroken stream of people converged at the Triveni Sangam on the occasion with around 3.5 crore devotees taking a dip.

The grandeur and convenience of Mahakumbh have



become a focal point of attraction both within the country and abroad. This year, Indian Railways plans to operate over 13,100 trains, including 10,000 regular trains and more than 3,000 special trains. The number of long-distance reserved special trains has also been increased significantly.

Furthermore, 17 new permanent passenger shelters have been built to enhance passenger convenience. Additional toilets, drinking wa-

ter facilities and food courts have been established at all major stations. Passenger facilitation centres have been inaugurated at Prayagraj Junction and Prayagraj Chheoki, offering services such as wheelchairs, luggage trolleys and medical assistance

North India's first sleeping pod has been introduced at Prayagraj Junction for the comfortable stay of passengers. To ensure instant availability of tickets, Railways plans to issue

Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Marathi, Assamese, Kannada and English. Given the large number of devotees and passengers expected during Mahakumbh, railways has implemented several significant security measures.To ensure safety, 764 new CCTV cameras and 116 face recognition system (FRS) cameras have been installed. For the first time, drone cameras are being used to monitor tracks and manage crowd movement on routes

nearly 10 lakh tickets daily.

Passenger information will

be announced in 12 languag-

es at Prayagraj Junction and

other stations. These include

Hindi, Odia, Gujarati, Bengali,

leading to stations. Railways has initiated several measures to make Mahakumbh entirely digital and maintain cleanliness. Ensuring passenger convenience, the Railways has launched an app, website and QR code-based ticketing application.

AUTO DRIVERS AT CROSSROADS

AAP's loyal vote bank grapples with rising challenges

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: Grappling with rising CNG costs and navigating the government's push for electric vehicles, auto drivers in Delhi are weighing their

options this election season. Auto rickshaw drivers, seen as a dependable vote bank for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), say they are facing a host of challenges which could influence their electoral preferences in the February 5 elections. For years, auto drivers have played a significant role in Delhi's electoral politics. Their visibility on the streets, combined with their direct interactions with lakhs of commuters, makes

them crucial opinion influenc-

ers and grassroot campaigners for political parties.

However, as this election sea son heats up, cracks are beginning to appear in the AAP's dependable votebank. Many auto drivers feel the AAP has worked for their benefit in the past but believe more could have been done to address their woes.

"They (AAP) increased fares a few years back, which was good for us. But now, with CNG prices skyrocketing, it barely makes a difference," Rajesh Kumar, a driver at the New Delhi Railway station, said. Other auto drivers echoed concerns about operational costs.

The AAP government in 2023 revised auto and taxi fares amid increase in CNG price in



the national capital. Fuel prices fluctuate based on global crude oil market trends. For this year's election the AAP has announced several benefits for auto rickshaw drivers.

AAP convener and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in December announced that auto drivers would be provided with life insurance coverage of ₹10 lakh and accident insur-

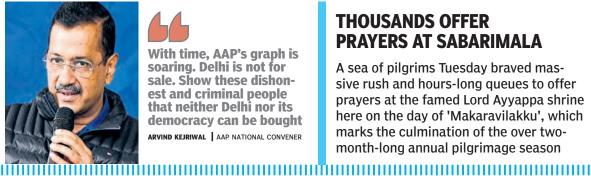
ance of ₹5 lakh. Additionally, drivers will receive ₹1 lakh for their daughter's wedding, ₹2,500 twice a year for uniforms (during Holi and Diwali), and coaching fees for competitive exams.

The PoochO app, which helps users book registered auto rides, will also be re-launched. The government's push for e-autos has also divided auto drivers. While some see it as a welcome change, others find the transition daunting due to the high initial costs and lack of adequate charging infrastructure. "Who has ₹2-3 lakh to buy an e-auto? Even if we take a loan, where are the charging stations? It feels like they announce these policies without thinking about us," Irfan, who has been driving an auto for the past 15 years, said. However, a few drivers ap-

preciate the subsidies offered for e-autos. "The AAP has done a lot to make e-autos affordable, but they need to solve the charging issue first," Karan who recently switched to an electric vehicle, said. For many drivers, the biggest challenge remains the competition from the app-based services like Ola and Uber. While the AAP has promised to regulate ride-hailing apps to create level playing field, several drivers claim the promises remain unfulfilled. Auto drivers have also voiced concern over lack of social security measures.



national



With time, AAP's graph is soaring. Delhi is not for sale. Show these dishonest and criminal people that neither Delhi nor its democracy can be bought ARVIND KEJRIWAL AAP NATIONAL CONVENER

THOUSANDS OFFER PRAYERS AT SABARIMALA

A sea of pilgrims Tuesday braved massive rush and hours-long queues to offer prayers at the famed Lord Ayyappa shrine here on the day of 'Makaravilakku', which marks the culmination of the over twomonth-long annual pilgrimage season





battle of Panipat proves the necessity of prime minister Narendra Modi's call for unity in the slogan 'Ek Hai Toh Safe Hai' (united we are safe)

DEVENDRA FADNAVIS | MAHA CM

Goa Tourism Board is the only such entity in the country with equal members from government and industry. The chief minister has

given certain directions regarding the ease of doing business in the tourism sector and other things ROHAN KHAUNTE I GOA TOURISM MINISTER









Rahul Gandhi was absolutely right when he exposed this fraud SPREAD IT MAX

@mr mayank





This is how Keiriwal mocks Dalits & reservations. clearly he hates Baba Saheb Ambedkar too

RAJNATH WARNS PAK ON TERROR CAMPS

Criticising Pakistan's persistent support for terrorism, Singh said, "Pakistan has always made every effort to destabilise India". "Despite international pressure, it has never abandoned its policy of supporting terrorism. The terrorists infiltrating Jammu and Kashmir come from Pakistan"

khatm karna hi hoga, nahin to

dot dot dot (Pakistan must de-

stroy this (these terror camps). otherwise)," Singh said while

delivering a strong ultimatum

The Defence Minister also

condemned the recent remarks

made by Anwar-ul-Haq, the so-

called Prime Minister of PoK.

who batted for the continuation

of Pakistan's anti-India agenda,

and added that the people of PoK

have been deprived of a digni-

fied life and manipulated by Pa-

kistan's rulers under the guise

of religion to further their agen-

da of exporting terror to India.

Criticising Pakistan's persistent

support for terrorism, Singh

said, "Pakistan has always made

every effort to destabilise India.

Despite international pressure,

it has never abandoned its pol-

to Pakistan.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Akhnoor (J&K), Jan 14: Declaring that Jammu and Kashmir remains "incomplete" without Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh delivered a strong message to Pakistan Tuesday warning Islamabad to dismantle its terror infrastructure or face serious consequences.

Speaking at a gathering of armed forces veterans in Akhnoor, Singh emphasised that the abrogation of Article 370 has initiated a transformation in the region. "The situation in Jammu and Kashmir has changed drastically. and this truth must be accepted. Jammu and Kashmir is incomplete without PoK, which remains the crown jewel of India," he said. Reaffirming India's stance,

Singh said, "For Pakistan, PoK is nothing more than foreign territory" and the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir have never aligned with those of Pakistan. He cited the sacrifices made by many Muslim residents of the region in the fight against terrorism, highlighting that PoK has been exploited by Pakistan as a base for terrorist training camps and infiltration activities.

The defence minister said that the land of PoK is being used to run the "business of terrorism" and India is well aware of the launch pads created near the border. "... Pakistan ko inko

icy of supporting terrorism. The terrorists infiltrating Jammu and Kashmir come from

At the event, the Defence Minister announced that doorstep delivery of medical facilities through mobile medical units will be provided to ex-servicemen and their families in remote areas across the country. 'The government has taken several steps to support ex-service men and their families. While I do not claim that all measures are sufficient, one significant initiative this year is the introduction of mobile medical units for veterans and their families in remote areas," he said.

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and General Officer Commanding-in-chief M V Suchindra Kumar were prominent among those who attended the event organised by the Army at Tanda Artillery Brigade in the Akhnoor sector near Jammu to celebrate the ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day celebrations. Abdullah praised the armed forces for safeguarding the country and assured the veterans of his government's complete support in mitigating their problems. He said efforts are underway to improve and strengthen the relationship between the government and the forces. The Defence Minister recalled the bravery of the Indian Army during the 1965 war with Pakistan, emphasising the strategic brilliance and sacrifices that led to India's victory.

Haryana BJP chief, singer Rocky Mittal booked for gangrape

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Shimla/Chandigarh, Jan 14: Haryana BJP Mohanlal Badoli and a singer were booked after a woman alleged that she was gangraped by them in a hotel in Kasauli. Himachal Pradesh Police has registered an FIR against the two men, officials said Tuesday.

PTI reached out to Badoli but no response was received. Ac cording to the complainant, the two men made videos of the act and threatened to kill the victim if she disclosed the incident to anyone, they said.

The FIR registered in Kasauli in Solan district December 13, 2024, names Badoli and Jai Bhagwan alias Rocky. A copy of the FIR was doing the rounds on social media Tuesday. According to the FIR, the woman was staying in a hotel in Kasauli with her boss and friend when they met the two accused July 3, 2023. While Badoli introduced himself as a political leader, Rocky introduced himself as a singer.

Later, the woman and her friend went into a room with the two accused, who promised to help the complainant get a government job and a chance to feature in a music video, the FIR said. The accused allegedly forced the complainant to drink liquor. When she refused, they raped her, she said

in her complaint. They also clicked pictures and recorded videos of the act and threatened to kill the woman if she disclosed the incident to anyone, the FIR added. The complainant further alleged that two months ago, she was called to Rocky's house in Panchkula where the accused threatened to implicate her in a false case. police said.

Delhi polls: Atishi files nomination



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: Chief Minister Atishi filed her nomination for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls from Kalkaji constituency Tuesday.

She filed her nomination papers at the district magistrate's (DM) office in Lajpat Nagar. Atishi was supposed to file her papers Monday following a roadshow. However, there was a delay due to the roadshow and she could not make it to the DM's office before the 3 pm deadline, according to an AAP leader.

Atishi is pitted against the BJP's Ramesh Singh Bidhuri and the Congress' Alka Lamba. A seasoned politician and former MP, Bidhuri won Tughlakabad Assembly seat in 2003, 2008 and 2013. Lamba was with the AAP for almost five years and joined the Congress in 2019.

Speaking to reporters after filing her nomination, Atishi criticised Delhi Police for filing an FIR in connection with the use of government vehicles for election campaigning when no action has been taken against BJP leader Parvesh Verma who "openly distributed" cash and blankets among voters. "The entire country saw (BJP candidate from New Delhi seat) Parvesh Verma distributing cash. Even women came forward and said they

were given ₹1,100 to press the button against the lotus (BJP's poll symbol) on the EVM," the chief minister said.

However, no action has been taken against him. This clear ly shows that "something is amiss", she added. Delhi Police has registered an FIR against a Public Works Department (PWD) official for carrying election-related material in a government vehicle pertaining to Atishi. Kalkaji constituency has a total of 1,94,515 voters -1,06,893 male, 87,617 female and 5 transgender. The 70-member Delhi Assembly goes to polls February 5. The results will be announced February 8.

Cong releases list of 15 candidates

New Delhi: The Congress Tuesday released a list of 15 candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls, fielding former Union ministe councillor Ariba Khan from Okhla. The party also replaced its candidate in the Gokalpur (SC) constituency, fielding Ishwar Bagri in place of Pramod Kumar Jayant. With this list 63 candidates for the elections for the Tirath and Khan, the Congress' latest list includes Dharam Pal Lakda from Mundka, Raiesh Gupta from Kirari. Town, Prem Sharma from Hari Nagar, Mange Ram from Palam.

SHORT **TAKES**

Four dead due to kite string injuries

Ahmedabad (Gujarat): Four persons including a fouryear-old boy died after their throats were slit by 'manja' or kite string during Uttarayan celebrations in Gujarat Tuesday, police said, A death each was reported in Rajkot, Panchmahal, Mehsana and Surendranagar districts while numerous cases of injury were reported across the state,

35 crows found dead in two days

Latur: As many as 35 crows were found dead in different parts of Udgir town in Maharashtra's Latur district in two days, and carcasses have been sent for analysis, an official said Tuesday. According to officials, bird carcasses were found in Hutatma Smarak Garden and Mahatma Gandhi Garden, among other areas, Monday and Tuesday. "After receiving complaints from residents, we visited Hutatma Smarak Garden, where eight to ten dead carcases were found. and 10 to 15 dead crows were found at Mahatma Gandhi Garden, Six carcasses were sent to the Regional Disease Investigation Laboratory in Pune to ascertain the cause of death. At least 35 crows have been found dead so far.' livestock development officer Dr Prakash Dhond said

Akasa Air faces **DGCA** heat for lapses

Mumbai: Aviation watchdog DGCA has issued a warning letter to Akasa Air's accountable manager Vinay Dube, who is also its founder and CEO, for regulatory lapses, days after the airline was warned for violating norms related to handling dangerous goods. Sources Tuesday told PTI that the regulator has warned the airline's Accountable Manager to be careful to avoid noncompliance, citing two specific incidents related to a hard landing of aircraft and non-revision of the operations manual within the prescribed time frame.

ANOTHER TMC LEADER SHOT **DEAD IN BROAD DAYLIGHT**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Malda (WB), Jan 14: Less than a fortnight after the killing of Trinamool Congress (TMC) councillor Dulal Sarkar, fresh violence rocked West Bengal's Malda district as another I'MC worker was killed and two others, including a local committee president, were critically injured in an attack Tuesday, police said.

The incident occurred in the Kaliaganj area under the Kaliachak police station limits when TMC local committee president Bakul Sheikh and other party workers were attending a programme to inaugurate a road.

Initial reports said four to five assailants arrived at the scene and fired indiscriminately at Bakul Sheikh and his associates.

Later in the evening, police claimed no gunshot wound was found on the body of the deceased or the injured. "The person died after he was repeatedly hit by a brick by the attackers. Two others suffered injuries similarly. According to preliminary investigation, no shots were fired," a police officer said.

Ataul Haque alias Hasu Sheikh, a TMC worker, succumbed to his injuries on the spot. Disturbing video footage showed that as Haque fell to the ground, he was continuously battered with a brick by one of the assailants. Bakul Sheikh and former panchayat chief Esaruddin Sheikh suffered critical injuries and are undergoing treatment at Malda Medical College and Hospital, where their condition remains serious, police said.

"We are questioning witnesses and others. So far, 10 people have been detained, and six more have been identified," Malda district police superintendent Pradeep Kumar Yadav said in a statement. Preliminary investigations suggest the attack might be linked to factionalism within the ruling party, police sources said.



A volunteer of NGO 'Save Birds' treats a pigeon injured by 'manjha', a string used for flying kites, on the Makar Sankranti festival in Mumbai, Maharashtra

warehouses -- deployment of se-

curity personnel, monthly and

vided to it and prioritisation

of these requirements by the

quarterly inspections,

systems like fire

alarms, CCTV

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SIMULTANEOUS POLLS

EC quest for 800 warehouses to store EVMs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: The Election Commission (EC) has projected a requirement of 800 additional warehouses across the country to store EVMs and other equipment in case simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and state assemblies are held.

The poll body has described the construction of warehouses as a "laborious process" entailing cost. The cost of the land and construction is borne by the respective state governments.

The EC had shared its views on various aspects of holding simultaneous elections with the Law Commission and the Department of Legal Affairs in the Union law ministry in

NIRVACHAN SADAN भारत निर्वाचन आयोग **ELECTION COMMISSIO** March 2023. Its views on the

issue now form part of the documents shared with the members of the joint committee of Parliament examining the two bills that lay down the mechanism to hold simultaneous polls in the country

"In case of simultaneous

SIMULTANEOUS ELECTIONS WITH THE LAW COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS IN THE **UNION LAW MINISTRY IN MARCH 2023** ITS VIEWS ON THE ISSUE NOW FORM PART elections, for

OF THE DOCUMENTS SHARED WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT EXAMINING THE

and security features in all the

safe and secure storage of EVMs/ VVPATs, there will be a requirement of houses...," the EC has said. It has noted that enforcing safety

TWO BILLS THAT LAY DOWN SIMULTANEOUS POLLS IN THE COUNTRY about 800 additional wareto adequate lead time being pro-

THE MECHANISM TO HOLD also noted that subject

EC HAD SHARED

ITS VIEWS ON VARIOUS

ASPECTS OF HOLDING

-- March 2023 -- the construction istrative difficulties of 194 warehouses has been The poll panel has, however,

completed, 106 warehouses are under construction, for 13 warehouses, land has been identified and sanctioned but they are not grounded and for 13 warehouses, land has not been allotted so

respective state governments,

"this challenge can be dealt

with". There are around 772

In July 2012, the EC had initi-

ated the construction of "dedi-

cated warehouses" in each

district for the storage of elec-

tronic voting machines (EVMs)

and voter-verifiable paper audit

"It was identified that 326

districts require construction

of new warehouses. As on date

far," it had told the law panel.

trail machines (VVPATs).

districts in the country.

Walmik charged under MCOCA in sarpanch's death

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kej (Maharashtra), Jan 14: Walmik Karad, an aide to Maharashtra NCP minister Dhananjay Munde, was Tues day charged under the strin gent MCOCA and remanded to 14 days of judicial custody in an extortion case allegedly linked to the murder of sarpanch Santosh Deshmukh.

The Kej court in Beed district ordered Karad's judicial custody after his 14-day police remand ended.

Subsequently, the police approached the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) court, which issued a production warrant for him, an official said, indicating that he is expected to be produced in court again Wednesday. "Wal mik Karad was remanded to ju dicial custody by the (sessions) court. After police approached the MCOCA court, a production warrant was issued against him. He is likely to be produced in court again tomorrow," the official stated.

Karad had surrendered to the CID in Pune amid protests over the murder of Deshmukh. He appeared before CID December 31, last year. He was then remanded to police custody for 14 days. Before surrendering, Karad released a video on social media saving that he was being falsely implicated in the murder out of political vendetta.

In a separate development, Karad's mother, Parubai Karad staged a sit-in protest outside a police station in Beed district Tuesday, demanding her son's release. Some of Karad's sup porters even climbed a stone tower to support her cause. Parubai arrived at the Parli city police station in the morning, vowing not to leave until her demands were met. "My son has done nothing wrong and should be released. Even if my life ends, I will not get up from here," Parubai told reporters outside the police station.

international



We have not gone to war to make these things happen. **During my presidency, I've** increased America's power in every dimension. We increased our diplomatic power, creating more allies the US has ever had in the history of our nation

JOE BIDEN | PRESIDENT, US

GOLD DEPOSITS WORTH PKR 700BN DISCOVERED IN PAKISTAN'S PUNJAB

Pakistan's Punjab government Tuesday claimed that they had discovered "massive gold deposits" worth over PKR 700 billion in the province. "We have discovered 2.8 million tola gold in the Attock district of Punjab," Punjab Minister for Mines and Minerals Sardar Sher Ali Gorchani told reporters





China hopes the European **Union can** become "a trustworthy partner fo



India is one of the few countries which is

in a position to talk to Israel and Iran as well and Prime Minister Modi is able to do both, being a member of the Quad and BRICS

S JAISHANKAR I

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER, INDIA





VOLODYMYR ZELENSKYY | PRESIDENT, UKRAINE

SHORT **TAKES**

Khan's wife secures bail in over a dozen cases

Islamabad: Jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan's wife Bushra Bibi Tuesday secured interim bail in more than a dozen cases despite telling the court she has lost faith in the justice system of Pakistan. Anti-terrorism court Judge Tahir Abbas Supra, who presided over the hearing, granted Bushra interim bail until February 7 in 13 cases related to the D-Chowk protests apart from another case involving the killing of paramilitary rangers during the demonstration last year. Apart from Bibi, her spouse Khan, 72, and other party leaders have been nominated in the first information report (FIR) registered at the Ramna police station under Section 302 (murder) and other sections of the Pakistan

NK launches projectile toward eastern waters

Seoul: North Korea Tuesday test-fired multiple missiles toward its eastern waters, South Korea's military said as it continued its weapons demonstrations ahead of Donald Trump's return to the White House. South Korea's ioint chiefs of staff said the weapons were fired from a northern inland area and were suspected to be shortrange ballistic missiles. It wasn't immediately clear how far the weapon flew. The joint chiefs said the South Korean military has strengthened surveillance while sharing the launch information with the US and Japanese militaries. It was North Korea's second launch event of 2025. following a ballistic launch last week.

Hasina's niece resigns

as UK Treasury minister London: The niece of Bangladesh's deposed former leader Sheikh Hasina, Labour Party MP Tulip Siddiq, Tuesday resigned as Treasury minister to prevent her family connections becoming a "distraction" for the work of the British government. Last week, the British Bangladeshi minister in charge of tackling corruption in the UK financial markets as Economic Secretary to the Treasury and City Minister had referred herself to Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests over allegations of corruption and a lack of transparency surrounding her use of properties in London. In her resignation letter released by 10 Downing Street, Siddiq pointed out that the watchdog had not found her in breach of the Ministerial Code and noted that she had not "acted

Gaza ceasefire talks resume

US President-elect Donald Trump's incoming Middle **East envoy Steve Witkoff and Biden's** envoy Brett McGurk have both attended the talks hosted by **Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin** Abdulrahman Al Thani

Doha/Cairo/Jerusalem, Jan 14: Negotiators were meeting in Qatar Tuesday hoping to finalise details of a plan to end the war in Gaza, after US President Joe Biden indicated a ceasefire and hostage release deal was close, after 15 months of conflict that upended the Middle East.

More than four hours after talks began there was still no word on an outcome.

Qatar's foreign ministry spokesperson Majed Al-Ansari told a news conference that the talks on the final details were underway and this was the closest point to a deal reached over the past months.

Hamas said the talks had reached the final steps and that it hoped this round of negotia-

Khaleda Zia demands

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

end or mid-2026.

election by July-August

Dhaka, Jan 14: Former Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangla-

desh Nationalist Party (BNP)

Tuesday demanded that the

general election be held by

July-August this year, refut-

ing interim government chief

adviser Muhammad Yunus's

stance to stage it by the year-

lay the election that much."

said BNP secretary general

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alam-

gir after an overnight meet-

ing of the party's standing

committee that was chaired

virtually by acting BNP

chairperson Tarique Rah-

committee held a lengthy dis-

cussion on Yunus's planned

election deadline but came

up with a conclusion that the

polls should not be delayed for so long as voters list updating

should not take more than a

month and other related tasks

would take one to two months

"We believe, as the Elec-

tion Commission has already

been formed and there is

relative stability in gover-

nance, there is no reason to

delay the national election

further. Delays only deepen

the political and economic

crises," he said.

Alamgir said the standing

man from London.

at most.

"There is no reason to de-

tions would lead to a deal after mediation by Qatar, Egypt and the United States.

An Israeli official said talks had reached a critical phase although some details needed to be hammered out: "We are close, we are not there yet."

Qatari mediators had given Israel and Hamas a final draft of a text for a ceasefire and release of hostages agreement Monday, an official briefed on the negotiations said, after what he described as a midnight breakthrough in talks in Doha.

US President-elect Donald Trump's incoming Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Biden's envoy Brett McGurk have both attended the talks hosted by Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. Israel

with Vietnam

Hanoi: Vietnam and

Russia inked Tuesday

an agreement to boost

cooperation on nuclear

Russia signs nuclear energy deal

energy during Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's

two-day visit to Hanoi. The Southeast Asian country has

been trying to revive its nuclear energy plans - after

it shelved building two nuclear power plants in 2016

due to ballooning costs and concerns around safety -

its goal of curbing additional greenhouse emissions

state-owned nuclear energy company Rosatom and

Vietnam's state-owned power utility EVN. Mishustin

also held bilateral talks with his counterpart Pham Minh

Chinh and met Vietnam's Communist Party chief To Lam

and the chairman of Vietnam's National Assembly Tran

Thanh Man, "Vietnam is an important partner of Russia

discuss with you a comprehensive plan for cooperation

between Russia and Vietnam, which runs until 2030." He

in Southeast Asia," Mishustin said. "Today we plan to

is set to meet President Luong Cuong Wednesday.

by 2050. The agreement was signed between Russia's

hoping it will help it become energy-sufficient and reach

- No word of outcome after four hours of talks

- close, we are not there yet'

is represented by David Barnea, director of spy service Mossad, and Ronen Bar, head of the Shin Bet internal security agency.

"The deal would free the hostages, halt the fighting, provide security to Israel and allow us to significantly surge humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians who suffered terribly in this war that Hamas started,' Biden said Monday.

If successful, the phased

SNIPPETS

ceasefire - capping over a year of start-and-stop talks - could halt fighting that decimated Gaza, killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, made most of the enclave's population homeless and is still killing dozens a day.

That in turn could ease tensions across the wider Middle East, where the war has fuelled conflict in the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iraq, and raised fears of all-out war between Israel and Iran.

FIGHTING STILL RAGES

Gaza health officials said Tuesday Israeli strikes killed at least 27 Palestinians in the past day, including one Gazan journalist. One of those attacks killed 10 people in a house in Khan Younis south of the enclave. Another killed nine people in a tent encampment in Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza.

The Israeli military made no immediate comment.

Trump's Jan 20 inauguration is now widely seen as a de facto deadline for a ceasefire agreement. Trump has said there would be "hell to pay" unless hostages held by Hamas are freed before he takes office, while Biden has also called for a final push for a deal before he leaves.

Blinken said negotiators wanted to make sure Trump would continue to back any deal on the table, which made the presence of Trump's Middle East envoy Witkoff along side Biden administration officials "critical".

Lebanon's new PM vows to rebuild

war with Israel and work on pulling the small nation

out of its historic economic meltdown, Nawaf Salam

spoke after meeting with Lebanon's new President

With the nomination of Salam and confirmation of

Aoun, Lebanon, which has been run by a caretaker

said he will not marginalize any side in Lebanon, an

apparent reference to the Hezbollah militant group.

prime minister and this year indicated its preference

for another candidate. Salam, who is currently the

head of the International Court of Justice, said that

he will work on spreading the state's authority on all

parts of the country. On Monday he won the support

of a majority of legislators, after which Aoun formally

asked him to form a new government.

which in past years opposed his appointment as

administration, now has a new government in waiting

for the first time in two years. After the meeting, Salam

Joseph Aoun, who himself took office last week.

Beirut: Lebanon's prime minister-

work on building a modern state

in the crisis-hit country, saving

his priorities will be to rebuild the

destruction caused by a vearlong

designate vowed Tuesday to

Washington, Jan 14: US Special Counsel Jack Smith concluded that Donald Trump engaged in an "unprecedented criminal effort" to hold on to power after losing the 2020 election, but was thwarted in bringing the case to trial by the president-elect's November election victory, according to a report published Tuesday.

Joe Biden.

It concludes that the evidence tors who worked on it.

that my decisions as a prosecutor were influenced or directed by the Biden administration or other political actors is, in a word, laughable," Smith wrote in a letter detailing his report.

in a post on his Truth Social site, called Smith a "lamebrain prosecutor who was unable to get his case tried before the election.

Trump's lawyers, in a letter

Trump engaged in 'criminal effort' to overturn 2020 poll

SPECIAL COUNSEL REPORT FINDS

US prosecutors obtain new indictment in 2020 election subversion case against Donald Trump



REUTERS

The report details Smith's decision to bring a four-count indictment against Trump, accusing him of plotting to obstruct the collection and certification of votes following his 2020 defeat by Democratic President

would have been enough to convict Trump at trial, but his imminent return to the presidency, set for Jan 20, made that impossible. Smith, who has faced relentless criticism from Trump, also defended his investigation and the prosecu-

"The claim from Mr Trump After the release, Trump,

to Attorney General Merrick

Smith's report details Trump's alleged election obstruction, document retention

rump's cases dropped due to DOJ policy against prosecuting sitting presidents

Courts reject Trump's attempt to block report release before his return to office

Garland made public by the Justice Department, called the report a "politically-motivated attack" and said releasing it ahead of Trump's return to the White House would harm the presidential transition.

Much of the evidence cited in the report has been previously made public.

But it includes some new details, such as that prosecutors considered charging Trump with inciting the Jan 6, 2021 attack on the US Capitol under a US law known as the Insur rection Act.

Prosecutors ultimately concluded that such a charge posed legal risks and there was insufficient evidence that Trump intended for the "full scope" of violence during the riot, a failed attempt by a mob of his supporters to stop Congress from certifying the 2020 election.

Trump with conspiring to obstruct the election certification, defraud the United States of accurate election results and deprive US voters of their vot

The indictment charged

SK adjourns impeachment trial as Yoon remains elusive

Seoul, Jan 14: South Korea's Constitutional Court adjourned the opening session of the impeachment trial of suspended President Yoon Suk Yeol within minutes Tuesday, after the embattled leader did not attend court.

A lawyer advising Yoon had said the president, who has been holed up in his hillside

villa in Seoul for weeks, would not attend, saying a bid by authorities to detain him prevented Yoon from expressing his position at the trial

The next trial session is scheduled for Thursday and if Yoon also does not attend, the trial proceedings will go ahead with his legal team representing him, acting chief justice Moon Hyung-bae said.

Outside the court, one of



Yoon's lawyers Yoon Kab-keun said the president would decide whether to go to the court in person Thursday after discussions on his defence strategy.

The Constitutional Court must decide within 180 days whether to remove Yoon from office or restore his presidential powers. Yoon also faces a criminal investigation for alleged insurrection, with authorities seeking to execute an arrest warrant after he ignored summons to appear for questioning.

"A legitimate warrant must exist, and it must be legally pre-

More than 95 per cent

of internet traffic is

cables, and 1.3

secured via undersea

million kilometres of

cables guarantee an

estimated \$10 trillion

transactions every day

worth of financial

sented and executed," which does not mean "jumping fences or damaging property without presenting a warrant", his lawver Yoon said, repeating that the current arrest war rant was invalid. Yoon's declaration of martial law Dec 3 that was withdrawn after about six hours has plunged one of Asia's most vibrant democracies into a period of unprecedented po litical turbulence.

NATO to deploy ships, aircraft in Baltic Sea after cable breaches

Estonian PM Kristen Michal, Finnish President Alexander Stubb and NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte attend a joint press conference at the summit of the Baltic

> the Presidential Palace in Helsinki

Sea NATO countries, at

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brussels, Jan 14: NATO is launching a new mission to protect undersea cables in the Baltic Sea region after a string of incidents in the Baltic that have heightened concerns about possible Russian activities in the region, the alliance's leader said Tuesday.

Secretary-General

sinki with the leaders of NATO countries located on the Baltic Sea that the effort would be dubbed Baltic Sentry

"Across the alliance, we have seen elements of a campaign to destabilise our societies through cyberattacks, assassination attempts and sabotage, including possible sabotage of undersea cables in the Baltic Sea," Rutte told reporters.

Announcing the new operation, Rutte noted that more than 95 per cent of internet traffic is secured via undersea cables, and 1.3 million kilometres of cables guarantee an estimated \$10 trillion worth of financial transactions every day

Rutte said that the mission would include frigates and maritime patrol aircraft, among others, and will "enhance our vigilance in the Baltic." He also said that a small fleet of naval drones will be deployed "to provide enhanced surveillance and

n a statement, the Baltic Sea allies warned that "we reserve our rights, in accordance with international law, to take action against any suspected vessels that circumvent sanctions and threaten our security, infrastructure and the environment'

'Russia's use of the so-called shadow fleet poses a particula threat to the maritim deterrence." Even as Rutte was

this reprehensible practice" also and environmenta significantly Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine

"shadow fleet" was seen cirmeeting in Helsinki with the leaders of the Baltic nations, cling a natural gas pipeline that there were reports on the Polruns from Norway to Poland. ish state broadcaster TVP that The fleet is made up of hun-

supports funding of

that beyond

infrastructure,

threatening undersea

tain ownership and safety practices that are dodging sanctions and keeping the oil revenue flowing to Moscow. Finland President Alexander Stubb said the issue of the ship

seen near the pipeline had been discussed at the meeting, without giving details.

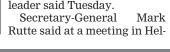
Rutte said NATO's adversaries must know that the alliance will not accept attacks on its critical infrastructure, underlining that "we will do everything in our power to make sure that we fight back, that we are able to see what is happening and then take the next steps to make sure that that doesn't happen again."

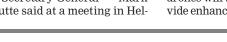
The meeting included leaders from Finland, Germany Poland, Denmark, Sweden. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia

In a statement, the Baltic Sea allies warned that "we reserve our rights, in accordance with international law, to take action against any suspected vessels that circumvent sanctions and threaten our security, infra structure and the environment.'

They said that "Russia's use of the so-called shadow fleet poses a particular threat to the maritime and environmental security. They said that beyond threat ening undersea infrastructure "this reprehensible practice" also "significantly supports funding of Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine."













a ship belonging to Russia's





susiness



So it's not so much about, you know, really monitoring each individual's number of hours. It's more about enabling individuals, helping them to actualise their potential, and then reviewing what goals people have achieved

PALM OIL IMPORTS SLUMP

India's palm oil imports dropped sharply in December as cheaper soybean oil from South America gained market share in the world's largest edible oil importing nation, industry data showed Tuesday. Soybean oil imports more than doubled to 420,000 tonnes in December 2024 from 152,650 tonnes a year earlier, according to the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA)





Turmeric is also called as golden spice. India accounts for 70 per cent of global turmeric

production... We are looking to double the production to 20 lakh tonnes in five years

We're leading the energy transition, and our ambition is to become the world's first

low-carbon refinery SATISH VASOOJA | CFO, EET FUELS



have an edge but not the right funding or resources, we are looking at them as

NALIN NEGI | BHARATPE CEO

SHORT **TAKES**

India to lead in premium growth

New Delhi: India's insurance market is projected to be the G20's fastest-growing economy over the next five years, with total premium volumes -- life and non-life -- up 7.3 per cent in real terms on average each year aided by macroeconomic stability and the conducive regulatory environment, a report said Tuesday. Life insurance, the mainstay of India's insurance market, accounts for 74 per cent of total premium volumes, according to a Swiss Re report on the insurance market outlook for India. Life premiums are estimated to grow by 4.8 per cent in 2024 in real terms and by 5 per cent in 2025 (2025-29: 6.9 per cent). following a meagre 0.7 per cent growth in 2023, when the savings segment was adversely impacted by regulatory and taxation changes, it said.

Gupta new SAIL director

New Delhi: State-owned SAIL Tuesday said that Manish Gupta has taken the charge as its Director, Technical, Projects and Raw Materials. Gupta took charge Monday. A graduate in mechanical engineering from MANIT Bhopal, Gupta began his career with SAIL in 1991 as a management trainee, technical at Durgapur steel plant, the company said in a statement. Having over three decades of expertise in the steel industry, he has worked in various plants and units of SAIL. During his tenure at Durgapur plant, he played an important role in improving the efficiency and safety of the steel melting

India-Oman trade talks

New Delhi: India and Oman are holding the fifth round of talks for a proposed free trade agreement here to boost bilateral economic ties, an official said Tuesday. The two-day talks started on January 13, the official said. The negotiations for the agreement, officially dubbed as Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), formally began in November 2023. Oman is the third largest export destination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. According to the think tank GTRI (Global Trade Research Institute), Indian goods worth USD 3.7 billion like gasoline, iron and steel, electronics, and machinery will get a significant boost in Oman, once both sides reach a comprehensive free trade agreement. Currently, over 80 per cent of its goods enter Oman at an average of 5 per cent import duties, a GTRI

report has said.

Wholesale inflation rises to 2.37% in Dec

Prices of non-food articles, manufactured items as well as fuel and power rise

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: Wholesale price inflation rose to 2.37 per cent in December 2024, due to spike in prices of non-food articles, manufactured items as well as fuel and power, even though food items saw marginal easing, government data released Tuesday showed.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation was 1.89 per cent in November 2024. It was 0.86 per cent in December 2023. In October it was 2.75 per

As per the data, inflation in food items eased marginally to 8.47 per cent in December 2024, as against 8.63 per cent in November. Cereals, pulses, and wheat saw easing in inflation in December.

However, inflation in vegetables continued to remain high at 28.65 per cent, potato at 93.20 per cent, and onion at 16.81 per cent in December.

Non-food articles, like oil seeds, saw spike in inflation in December at 2.46 per cent, as against a deflation of 0.98 per cent in November.

The fuel and power category witnessed a deflation of 3.79 per cent in December, against a deflation of 5.83 per cent in November. In manufactured items, inflation was 2.14 per cent, against 2 per cent in No-



ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal said the uptick in WPI was led by the fuel and power and primary non-food articles, which together accounted for as much as 42 basis points of the 48 basis points increase in the headline print between these months.

Agrawal said global commodity prices have inched up in January 2025 so far vis-à-vis December 2024. The average price of the Indian basket of crude oil, in particular, has surged by 5.8 per cent monthon-month during January 1-13, 2025, amid tighter US sanctions on Russian oil producers and

Additionally, the recent sharp depreciation in the USD/ INR pair to above 86.5 from sub-85 in mid-December 2024, would also exert some upward pressure on the landed cost of

'Overall, ICRA expects the headline WPI inflation to rise further to 3 per cent in January 2025 (+0.3 per cent in January 2024), with the uptick in crude

oil and commodity prices and the depreciation in the USD INR pair pushing up the print, along with an unfavourable base," Agrawal said.

ICRA expects the WPI to average at 2.5 per cent in current fiscal and 3-3.3 per cent in

Barclays in a research note said wholesale price inflation rose to 2.37 per cent year on year in December from 1.9 per cent in November owing to a low base. Sequentially, electricity WPI was up sharply and food prices declined.

Retail inflation data released on Monday showed that consumer price index (CPI) based inflation eased to 4-month low of 5.22 per cent in December on easing food prices.

The RBI's monetary policy committee will announce its interest rate decision on February 7. It is widely expected that the RBI, which eased liquidity in its last meeting in December by reducing cash reserve ratio by 50 basis points, will cut interest rates in 2025.

Sensex, Nifty rebound after 4 days

Mumbai, Jan 14: Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty bounced back Tuesday after declining for the past four sessions on easing retail inflation and a rebound in global mar-

Besides, bargain hunting in energy, banking and metal stocks supported the market sentiment.

However, rising global crude prices and unrelenting selling by foreign investors capped the gains, traders said. The 30-share BSE benchmark

Sensex rose 169.62 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 76,499.63. During the day, it surged 505.6 points or 0.66 per cent to As many as 2,867 stocks ad-

vanced while 1,096 declined and 110 remained unchanged on the BSE The NSE Nifty climbed

90.10 points or 0.39 per cent to The BSE Sensex has plunged

1,869.1 points or 2.39 per cent in the past four trading sessions.

"A rebound in the global market and an ease in domestic CPI inflation provided respite to the broader indices. This may provide some leeway for RBI in its next policy meeting. However, rising oil prices and higher 10-year yields will be watched carefully. The IT sector weighed down amid concerns over weak earnings guidance for Q4. The domestic sentiment will be more inclined towards the ongoing earnings season and upcoming union budget, which has a mixed view," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Adani Ports jumped over 5 per cent. NTPC, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finsery, Zomato, Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, State Bank of India, IndusInd Bank **BSE SENSEX**

JANUARY 14, 2025



ADANI PORTS	+4.77%		
NTPC	+4.22% TOP		
TATA STEEL	+3.29%	GAINERS	1
ZOMATO	+2.93%	GAINERS	-
TATA MOTORS	+2.64%	T	



Bargain hunting in energy, banking and metal stocks supported sentiment. However, rising crude prices and unrelenting selling by foreign investors capped the gains

and Maruti were among the other big gainers.

From the 30-share pack, Hindustan Unilever, Titan, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and UltraTech Cement were the other laggards. HCL Technologies slumped

over 8 per cent after its December quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. **HCL Tech Monday reported**

a 5.54 per cent uptick in consolidated net profit to ₹4,591 crore in the December quarter as the CEO expressed optimism for improvement in the demand environment and discretionary spending and raised the revenue growth guidance.

Brokers said overall sentiments turned better after retail inflation dipped to a 4-month low of 5.22 per cent in December, giving headroom to the Reserve Bank to cut the key interest rate in upcoming monetary policy.

The BSE midcap gauge soared 2.13 per cent and smallcap index jumped 1.69 per cent.

'As markets were on a downward spiral for the past few sessions, a short-term recovery was on the cards. Selective buying in banking, telecom, auto, power and metal stocks aided positive sentiment, while broader equity markets too performed well with mid and small-cap stocks witnessing a sharp rebound. However caution will continue to prevail as the rupee scaling fresh lows coupled with strong FII fund outflows will remain a major deterrent for markets, Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Among BSE sectoral indices, utilities zoomed 5.21 per cent. power rallied 4.50 per cent, metal (3.51 per cent), telecommuni cation (2.54 per cent), commodities (2.34 per cent) and services (2.26 per cent).

On the other hand, IT, teck, BSE Focused IT and FMCG were the laggards.

Rupee recovers from record low

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 14: The rupee rebounded from its lowest-ever level and settled 17 paise higher at 86.53 against the US dollar Tuesday as the American currency retreated from record high

Some recovery in domestic equity markets after the release of macroeconomic numbers also supported the Indian currency even though it remained under pressure due to elevated crude oil prices and continuous outflow of foreign funds.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.57 and touched the intra-day high of 86.45 before closing for the day at 86.53 against the greenback, registering a gain of 17 paise from its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee logged its steepest single-day fall in nearly two years and ended the session 66 paise down at its historic low of 86.70 against the US dollar. The currency's previous record one-day fall of 68 paise was witnessed February

The local unit has plunged

more than Re 1 in the past two weeks from the closing level of 85.52 December 30. It had breached the 85-per-dollar mark for the first time December 19, 2024.

The unit had depreciated 18 paise to settle at 86.04 against the US dollar Friday, 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. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee recovered from all-time lows on a slight bounce back in the domestic markets and a weak

US dollar. Cooling retail inflation and easing dollar brought some respite to the falling rupee, he said, but added that the Indian currency is expected to remain weak as crude oil prices continue to remain elevated, raising inflationary pressures.

"Traders may take cues from PPI (producer price index) data from US today and CPI data from US tomorrow. USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of ₹86.40 to ₹86.85," Choudhary added.

New Delhi, Jan 14: More than 6 out of 10 consumers in different parts of the world, including India, are likely or very likely to consider an electric vehicle for their next purchase, although 60 per cent of them considered charging infrastructure as a major challenge, according to a study.

The global study by Tata Consultancy Services surveyed over 1,300 anonymous respondents across USA, Canada, UK, Ireland, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, China, India, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, found that 56 per cent of them were ready to pay up to USD 40,000 (nearly ₹35 lakh) for an electric vehicle (EV).

The respondents for the study -- TCS Future-Ready eMobility Study 2025 -- included transport manufacturers, charging infrastructure players, fleet adopters, consumers and EV adoption influencers, TCS said in a statement.

According to the survey, 90 per cent of manufacturers believed that improvements in battery technology will enhance range and charging speed and will significantly impact the design and performance of EVs in

64% likely to choose EV as next vehicle: Study



the near term compared to other technological advancements.

Also, 74 per cent of manufacturers believed charging infrastructure remains the biggest obstacle limiting EV market growth.

From the consumers' point of view, 60 per cent said charging infrastructure was a major challenge, while 64 per cent of them were likely to choose EV as their next vehicle and 56 per

cent were ready to pay up to USD 40,000 for an EV compared to a conventional vehicle.

Interestingly, 72 of consumers in the US are very likely to purchase an EV as their next vehicle, as per the study.

In terms of range, 41 per cent $\,$ said that an acceptable EV range on a single charge is 200-

Commenting on the findings, TCS President, Manufacturing, Anupam Singhal said the electric vehicle industry is at a defining crossroad, navigating the complexities of scale and

transformation. "While nearly two-thirds of consumers are open to choosing electric for their next vehicle. manufacturers face challenges like advancing battery technology, complex vehicle designs, and production economics, Singhal added.

Aviation industry may clock ₹2,000-3,000cr net loss in FY25

Supply chain challenges and engine failure issues impacted the industry capacity over the last 18 months and are expected to continue affecting it this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: The country's civil aviation industry is projected to report a net loss of ₹2,000 to ₹3,000 crore in the current and next financial year as supply chain challenges and engine issues are expected to continue for some more time, according to a report.

In the report Tuesday, rating agency Icra also said that domestic air passenger traffic was estimated at 153 lakh in December, 7.3 per cent higher compared to 142.5 lakh recorded

in November last year.

per cent on a YoY basis and was higher by ~17.5 per cent than the pre-Covid levels, i.e., December 2019. The airlines' capacity deployment in December 2024 was higher than December 2023 by \sim 7.5 per cent and by \sim 3.8 per cent over November 2024," it added. Giving a stable outlook for the

"Further, it grew by ~ 10.8

Indian aviation industry, Icra said there are expectations of moderate growth in domestic air passenger traffic and a relatively stable cost environment

Moreover, the industry wit-



nessed improved pricing power during FY24, reflected in the higher yields (over pre-Covid levels) and the revenue per available seat kilometre-cost per available seat kilometre (RASK-CASK) spread of the

'The momentum in the air passenger traffic growth witnessed in FY2024 is likely to marginally taper to 7-10 per cent in FY2025 (compared to 13 per cent in FY2024), given the high base of FY2024 and lower passenger traffic in H1 FY2025. impacted by severe heat waves and other weather-related dis-

ruptions. The yields are also likely to be under pressure, as airlines strive to maintain adequate passenger load factor (PLF). International passenger traffic for Indian carriers is expected to grow by 15-20 per cent in FY2025," the report said.

For FY 2025 and FY 2026, Icra has projected the industry to register a net loss of ₹20-30 billion.

Supply chain challenges and engine failure issues impacted the industry capacity over the last 18 months and are expected to continue affecting it this year, it added.

India aim for clean

sweep vs Ireland

Mixed day for home shuttlers

New Delhi, Jan 14: PV Sindhu and the celebrated doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had to toil to advance to the second round of the USD 950,000 India Open Super 750 badminton tournament Tuesday, as home shuttlers experienced a mixed day.

After missing the season-opening Malaysia Open Super 1000 due to her wedding in December, Sindhu looked a bit rusty but managed to battle through a 21-14, 22-20 victory over world No 24 Sung Shuo Yun of Chinese Taipei.

"After a long break, it's always difficult to find the rhythm, but I am happy to have won the match in straight games. My shuttle was going midcourt in the second game, but I was always confident I could pull things off," said Sindhu. The world No 16 Indian will now face Japan's Manami Suizu in the second round.

In men's doubles, title contenders Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, seeded seventh, overcame a few nervous moments to defeat Malaysia's world No 7 duo, Man Wei Chong and Kai Wun Tee, 23-21, 19-21, 21-16.

After winning a narrow opening game, the Indian pair slipped in the second, allowing the Malaysians to force a de-

SHORT **TAKES**

Southampton gets

Southampton: Southampton

chairman Henrik Kraft has stepped

new chairman



cider. Satwik and Chirag took

an 11-9 lead in the third game,

but the Malaysian pair kept

things tight until 18-16, before

the Indians sealed the match

following two net errors from

their opponents. "They have al-

ways been a formidable team.

They defended quite well, and

it was very difficult to pene-

trate. Their service retrieving

was also good. They have im-

proved immensely, but we are

happy we could come back in

Melbourne, Jan 14: Former

world number one Rohan

Bopanna and his new Colom-

bian partner Nicolas Barrien-

Open men's doubles event with

an opening-round loss to the

Spanish team of Pedro Mar-

tinez and Jaume Munar here

that lasted close to two hours.

Bopanna and Barrientos

The 14th-seeded Indo-Colom-

bian pair began on a promising

note but faltered in crucial mo-

ments, allowing the Spaniards

to capitalise and secure victory.

got off to a solid start, holding

serve comfortably in the initial

Bhubaneswar, Jan 14: Odis-

ha FC Reserve Team earned a

hard-fought 1-1 draw against

Mohun Bagan SG in the Reli-

ance Foundation Development

League (East Region) at the

Kalyani Stadium B Tuesday.

Guided by head coach Amti Ra-

na, the team put on a solid per-

formance, staving defensively

strong throughout the match.

While the Kalinga Warriors

controlled most of the game,

they struggled to create clear

chances in the final third, with

Kartik Handal brought the

team back into the game early

in the second half, calmly fin-

ishing to level the score at 1-1.

limited shots from both sides.

POST NEWS NETWORK

Odisha FC draws 1-1

Bopanna and Barrientos

the third," said Chirag.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

George, who trains at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy (PPBA), fought through a thrill ing three-game encounter, saving three match points and then securing the win against Japan's world No. 25 Yushi Tanaka. Kiran won 21-19, 14-21, 27-25.

In mixed doubles, Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila advanced to the second round with a 8-21, 21-19, 21-17 victory over Chinese Taipei's Chen Cheng Kuan and Hsu Yin-Hui. Former national champions Ashwini Bhat and Shikha Gau-



tam also progressed, defeating Crystal Lai and Jackie Dent 22-20, 21-18 in women's doubles.

However, there was disappointment for the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand, seeded fifth, as they suffered a 21-23, 19 21 loss to Japan's Arisa Igarashi and Ayako Sakuramoto, despite recent success at the Syed Modi International Super 300.

Amrutha Pramuthesh and Sonali Singh also fell short, going down 21-19, 15-21, 12-21 to Thailand's O Jongsathaporn-

In mixed doubles, S Karunakaran and A Varivath lost 12-21, 10-21 to the French pair of T Gicquel and D Delrue. Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde also fought hard but were defeated 21-17, 18-21, 15-21 by Hee Yong Kai Terry and Jin Yu Jia.

Former world No 1 Kidambi Srikanth, who was granted a last-minute entry, withdrew from the tournament, handing a walkover to his first-round opponent Weng Hong Yang of China. Earlier in the day, Sindhu made a strong start, taking an 11-6 lead at the break and comfortably clinching the opening game. However, the second game saw Sung gain control, establishing an 11-4 lead at the interval. Sindhu mounted a comeback, levelling the score at 13-13 with a four-point burst.

Despite trailing 14-17, Sindhu rallied again, levelling at 17-17, 19-19, and 20-20, before converting a match point to seal the win.

In men's singles, Kiran George, who was a last-minute entry, opened up a significant lead at the break in the third game. However, a series of errors allowed Tanaka to fight his way back into the match. Despite missing three match points at 20-18, the Indian kept his nerves and saved three match points before finding the winning point.

The set ultimately went to

a tie-break in which the Span-

iards kept their composure,

edging past the 14th seeds 7-5

The 44-year-old Indian had

won the 2024 edition with his

Australian partner Matthew

Ehden. That historic victory

However, the Bopanna-Eb-

den partnership concluded af-

ter the Turin ATP Finals in No-

vember last year leading to his

new pairing with Barrientos.

singles player Sumit Nagal

also made a first-round exit,

losing to world No 25 Tomas

Machac of the Czech Republic

Earlier, India's top ranked

to clinch the match.

Team:

Smriti Mandhana (C), Deepti Sharma (VC), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Uma Chetry (wk), Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Raghvi Bist, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Tanuja Kanwer, Titas Sadhu, Saima

With another power-packed batting performance, the Indian team will be aiming to conbility... Initially I showed a lot tinue their impressive run and finish on a high note.

Pratika Rawal, after scoring her third half-century in just four innings, will be eager to translate her start into a maiden hundred.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajkot, Jan 14: A dominant

India will fancy their chances

of completing a clean sweep of

the women's ODI series against

Ireland in the third and final

match here Wednesday, having

recorded two convincing wins

in the preceding games.

Her blistering opening partnerships with skipper Smriti Mandhana have been the biggest takeaway of the series.

The duo added 156 runs for the first wicket in their previous outing, marking their third century-plus stand in five

Mandhana's consistency at

the top continues to be a major highlight for India as the flamboyant left-hander has carried on her form across formats from the West Indies series.

Harleen Deol, who initially struggled for momentum, found her rhythm later in the innings, scoring an important 89.

Thanks to Jemimah Rodrigues, who displayed patience and composure before accelerating in the final stages of the innings, India smashed their highest-ever ODI total of 370/5 in the last game.

Promoted to No 4 in Harmanpreet Kaur's absence, Rodrigues showed maturity after getting a reprieve on 34, and it took her just 28 balls to reach her second fifty.

"It was an added responsi-

Thakor, Sayali Satghare

of patience, which was again a big positive for me because it was important for me to spend time there to get those runs,' Rodrigues said. "And you know, I was getting

the runs. But I was not spend

ing enough time to make it big-

ger. So I was happy I could do that today." Seasoned batter Teial Hasanbis also made a fine

comeback with an unbeaten fifty in the opening ODI. In the absence of big hitters like Shafali Verma and Kaur,

who has been rested, the series also highlighted the performance of the emerging talents with Pratika making the most India's bowling though has

raised some concerns, as the team has struggled to take wickets consistently in home conditions and allowed Ireland to post 254/7 in pursuit of 371.

While India are missing Re nuka Singh, the injury to Pooja Vastrakar has compounded their misery.

Deepti Sharma, who played in her 100th ODI in the last match, has been the standout bowler with four wickets at 19 50 while the likes of Priva Mishra, Sayali Satghare, Titas Sadhu have not been able to

Manu Bhaker likely to get

Olympics medals replaced

New Delhi, Jan 14: India's

star pistol shooter Manu Bhak

er is likely to get her two Paris

Olympics bronze medals re-

placed by identical models as

she is among the large group of

athletes who have complained

that their medals have already

the world have also posted pic-

tures of their worn out medals

on social media in recent times

A lot of athletes from across

deteriorated.

down from his role with the relegation-threatened Premier League club and been replaced by majority shareholder Dragan Solak. The club announced the changes Tuesday and Solak said more were to come. "Whilst I am pleased with many aspects of the club's management, I am deeply disappointed with the football results this season,' Solak said in a statement. "We will be strengthening our football management team in the near future, and we will share details of that as soon as things are confirmed.'

Saqib Mahmood's prep hit by visa delay

London: England pacer of Pakistani

heritage, Saqib Mahmood, will miss the team's training camp in Abu Dhabi due to delay in getting his India visa for the limited overs tour beginning January 22, 'ESPNcricinfo' reported that Mahmood is yet to receive his Indian visa, preventing him from joining the camp in Abu Dhabi as his passport is with the concerned authorities as part of the visa process. However, he is expected to receive his visa before a batch of cricketers leave for Kolkata

Abhinash Jamwal strikes gold

Bareilly: Himachal Pradesh pugilist Abhinash Jamwal capped his dream run in the tournament with a gold medal in the welterweight (60-65kg) category, while Services retained team title for the third consecutive time in the men's National Boxing Championship here. Jamwal, who had earlier defeated reigning champion Shiva Thapa and former youth world champion Vanshaj Kumar, outclassed Amit of the Railways in the final to secure the gold. Meanwhile, Services boxers Sachin Siwach and Lakshya Chahar clinched gold medals in the lightweight (55-60kg) and light heavyweight (75-80kg) divisions respectively with commanding performances to help their team win the championship. Siwach beat Nikhil of Punjab, while Chahar won against Dhruv Singh of Delhi in the final.

MI Cape Town beats Paarl Royals

Cape Town: MI Cape Town returned to winning ways with a comprehensive 33-run victory over neighbours Paarl Royals in their first home match of the season in Betway SA20 here. Newlands, which was filled to capacity for MI Cape Town's first home game of Season 3, delivered a near-perfect all-round performance to clinch the win here Monday.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN MEN'S DOUBLES

Bopanna, Barrientos make first-round exit



However, the Spanish pair gradually gained momentum, showcasing consistency from the baseline and tactical net play.

The decisive moment came late in the set when Martinez and Munar earned a crucial break to take the opener.

both the pairs pushed each other to the limit.

Martinez and Munar first cruised to a 5-3 lead and appeared poised to close out the

rientos staged a spirited fightback, breaking their opponents' serve to level the score at 5-5.

made Bopanna, who was 43 at that time, the oldest man in the Open Era to win a Grand Slam

match while serving for it.

However, Bopanna and Bar-

HOME TEAM DOMINATES

in straight sets Monday.

against Mohun Bagan SG 157-point win against South Korea

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 14: The Indian women's team produced an incredible performance against South Korea, securing a commanding 175-18 victory in their opening match of the Kho Kho World Cup here Tuesday.

In a show of sheer dominance, the home team showcased their prowess with impressive 'Dream Runs' and defensive strategies that left their opponents stunned at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Chaithra B. Meeru and skipper Priyanka Ingle set the tone for India with consecutive 'Dream Runs', with the first two batches each earning a point.

This strategic opening helped neutralise the 10 touch-points that South Korea managed to secure at the end of the first

KHO KHO **WORLD CUP**

With the momentum in their favour, the Indians launched a full-scale attack with the dynamic trio of Nasreen Shaikh, Priyanka and Reshma Rathod at the forefront. In just 90 seconds. India secured three 'all out' victories against the defenders, pushing the score to 24.

Merely 18 seconds later, the 'Women in Blue' inflicted a

fourth 'all out' on South Korea, extending their lead to 22

Reshma stood out with an impressive six touch-points, while Meenu delivered an outstanding performance with 12 points through 'Other Dives', significantly bolstering the team's score. By the end of Turn 2, India had eliminated a staggering 16 batches, taking the score to 94-10.

India maintained the same intensity in Turn 3 also, as they added three points via the 'Dream Run'.

South Korea managed only eight points in the second innings of Turn 3, as India's dominance continued unabated.

of engaging people in the sport."

across Ukraine, the weekend's

championship served as a tes-

tament to the association's

success in developing grass-

roots amputee football across

the country since the full-scale

invasion began. A dedicated

Featuring five teams from

It has been learnt that the colour of Bhaker's medals has 'come off' and they 'have been in that state' for a long while Damaged medals will be

systematically replaced by the Monnaie de Paris (the French state mint) and engraved in an identical way to the originals the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said.

The iron pieces embedded in the centre of each Olympic medal weigh 18 grams (about two-thirds of an ounce).

The French state mint is a state-owned company that mints coins and other currency

All the damaged and defective medals are to be replaced in the coming weeks, as the Paris Olympics organising committee is working closely with the Monnaie de Paris.

The 2024 Olympic and Paralympic medals in Paris featured pieces of the iconic Eiffel Tower.

The 5,084 gold, silver and bronze medals for Paris 2024 were designed by luxury jewellery and watch firm Chaumet (part of the LVMH conglomerate) and produced by the Monnaie de Paris.

post Independence to win two medals in a single edition of the Olympics.

A soccer tournament for war-wounded amputees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kyiv, Jan 14: The players were chosen from among the thousands of Ukrainians wounded in the war. With limbs lost to Russian attacks, they gathered at a stadium in Kviv over the weekend, ready to embark on a new contest: a soccer tournament.

Organised by Ukraine's Association of Football, the 'League of the Mighty' is Ukraine's first soccer championship for amputees. Over the past year, the association has invested in local communities to establish teams, recognising the growing number of war-wounded citizens as a result of the nearly three-year war.

With six outfield players and one goalkeeper on each side, they engaged in intense matches. Outfield players, all lower-limb amputees, and goalkeepers with upper-limb

amputations, played without prostheses, relying on wrist clutches for control.

During the closing moment.

Sunil Soren almost sealed it for

Odisha with a stunning long-

range strike, but a beautiful

save from the Mohun Bagan

SG goalkeeper kept the num-

Odisha FC will now gear up

for their next match against Di-

amond Harbour FC January 19,

at the Naihati Stadium

bers unchanged.

Pokrova AMP won the tournament, with captain Valentyn Osovskyi describing the triumph as exhilarating. "We're really glad that we

had to work our way through, it was interesting," he said, adding that the goal is to have their own championship and to create a strong team to represent Ukraine on the international level. 'This will be a priority for

the next few years for us," said Andriy Shevhenko, president of the Ukrainian Association of Football, noting there are more than 100,000 amputees in the country, most of them "soldiers who defended our country."

For Olena Balbek, adviser to the president of the association, the sport is one way to provide mental and physical re-



habilitation for amputees while also normalising their growing presence in society.

"This is a societal effort," she said. "We're focusing on sports because it's our area of expertise, to make sure this is normalised.' Citing their own research, Balare around 1,000 worldwide.

fortunate, Balbek said, "We have a huge potential in terms

bek said the association boasts at least 60 professional amputee players in Ukraine – a significant number considering there

Though the reasons are un-I did," he added.

department within the association assists local groups in creating teams. The work is multifaceted, said Balbek, involving communication with veteran's groups, local initiatives and football clubs underscoring the importance of establishing amputee teams. "Football is the best rehabilitation for me," said

Pokrova AMP-One team. "It has helped me both physically and mentally. I'm doing it with my brothers in arms who went through the same things

Mykola Gatala, captain of the

Bhaker is the first Indian

Printed and published by Adyasha Satpathy on behalf of Navajat Printers and Media Pvt. Ltd. and printed at Navajat Printers, B-15 Industrial Estate, Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar -751010, Odisha; Phone: 7894447142 (Marketing). Editor: Tathagata Satpathy, RNI No. ORIENG/2011/37159