



Daunting task

Actor Sagarika, who took a break, says it has not been easy to just walk in and get a film

LEISURE | P2



'Stop this ridiculous war'

US Prez Donald Trump warns Russia's Vladimir Putin to come to the negotiation table or face a high-level of sanctions and tariffs

INTERNATIONAL | P10



Gold touches peak

Gold prices rally by ₹630 to a lifetime high of ₹82,700 per 10 grams in the national capital amid strong global trends

BUSINESS | P11



Dress code rules

The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary says

SPORTS | P12

12 run over by train as passengers jump on tracks after fire rumour

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Jaigaon, Jan 22: At least 12 passengers were killed Wednesday evening when they jumped from their Mumbai-bound train in panic due to a false fire alarm, only to be tragically run over by another train on the adjacent tracks here, officials said.

The tragedy unfolded when passengers onboard the 12533 Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express, fearing a blaze when sparks flew from the train's wheels, hastily jumped onto the adjacent tracks and were run over by the oncoming Karnataka Express heading from Bangalore to Delhi, they said.

As many as 15 other passengers were injured in the accident, which took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora town in North Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, when Pushpak Express halted after someone pulled the chain around 4.45pm, Central Railway officials said.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of the passengers who died in the tragedy, while the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Central Circle, will probe the circumstances leading to the accident.

"The tragic loss of lives in a very unfortunate incident near Pachora in Jalgaon district is deeply distressing. I pay my heartfelt tributes to them," Fadnavis posted on X. A track curvature prima facie affected visibility for Karnataka Express, officials said.

IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Our country is the best- the US pardons rioters while we don't even arrest them!



ALL SET: Artistes of Jammu & Kashmir tableau during a press preview of tableaux that will participate in the Republic Day Parade 2025, at Rashtriya Rangshala Camp in New Delhi, Wednesday

PM to inaugurate Utkarsh Odisha conclave

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Odisha January 28 to inaugurate a business conclave in the state capital Bhubaneswar, official sources said Wednesday.

The Prime Minister will stay at the venue of 'Utkarsh Odisha - Make In Odisha Conclave 2025' for around one and a half hours from 11 am, the sources said.

The PM will deliver the keynote address at the conclave, outlining the Central government's vision for Odi-

sha's industrial transformation, the sources said.

According to Modi's tentative tour programme, he is likely to reach Biju Patnaik International Airport here at 10.35am January 28 and go straight to Janata Maidan, the venue of the event. He is scheduled to leave Odisha at about

12.55 pm, the sources said.

The conclave organised by the Odisha government, will feature business leaders, policymakers, and international investors keen on exploring opportunities in manufacturing, mining, green energy, IT, and infrastructure sectors.

State eyes ₹12.56L-cr from 16th Finance Commission

The state government has decided to ask for an ambitious financial package from the 16th Finance Commission, totaling ₹12,56,148 crore for the fiscal years between 2026 and 2031. This decision, taken during a Cabinet meeting held Wednesday, comes ahead of the commission's scheduled three-day visit to the state February 5. Notably, the figure underscores a huge jump from the state's demand of ₹83,820 crore before the 15th Finance Commission

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: Ahead of the 16th Finance Commission's scheduled visit to Odisha, the state government Wednesday decided to submit a demand of ₹12,56,148 crore for the next five years.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi made the announcement after the proposal was approved at the Cabinet meeting.

The Cabinet also passed nine other proposals across various departments, including School and Mass



KEY CABINET DECISIONS

- Incentive package for establishment of India's first SIC semiconductor unit
- Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamik Vidyalayas in all GPs
- High School up-gradation under Adarsha Vidyalaya Yojana
- 'Financial Assistance to Cold Storages' to aid farmers
- 'Bikashita Gaon, Bikashita Odisha' for village infra development

the state for three days from February 5. During the Finance Commission's visit, the state will place a demand for ₹12,56,148 crore for next five years from 2026 to 2031, he said.

Key Cabinet approvals include the decision to offer a customised incentive package of 50 per cent for RIR Power Electronics Limited (RIR), which plans to establish India's first Silicon Carbide (SiC) semiconductor manufacturing facility in Bhubaneswar.

The project, with a total investment of ₹618.60 crore, is set to be implemented in two phases. The groundbreaking ceremony for the facility took place September 7, 2024, at the Electronic Manufacturing Cluster Park in Invalley, Bhubaneswar.

Majhi also announced the introduction of the 'Financial Assistance to Cold Storages' scheme, aimed at strengthening cold storage facilities and infrastructure. The goal is to establish at least one cold storage in each of the 58 sub-divisions of the state. **More P3**

JDU's Manipur chief sacked for 'no support to BJP' letter

Confusion prevailed over JD(U)'s support to the BJP-led Biren Singh government in Manipur with its state unit writing a letter to the Governor, informing him of withdrawal of support and the central party leadership dismissing it, asserting the support to NDA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/ Imphal, Jan 22: In a dramatic turn of events, the JD(U) Wednesday sacked its Manipur unit president, Ksh. Biren Singh, hours after he sent a letter to the Governor saying that the party has withdrawn support to the BJP-led state government, in an apparent effort to quell growing speculation about its weakening ties with the saffron party.

Party's national spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan said Singh's removal was due

to indiscipline and asserted that the party would continue to support the BJP-led government in the north-eastern state.

Ranjan affirmed that the JD(U) remains committed to supporting the BJP-led NDA, not just in Manipur but across the country. The JD(U) also said its MLA will not sit in the Opposition bench in the Assembly. "Our party has worked diligently to strengthen the NDA and will continue to do so," he added.

Ranjan's remark came shortly after Ksh Biren Singh claimed that the party had withdrawn support to the BJP-led Biren Singh government and informed its decision to Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The state unit chief had also claimed that the lone JDU MLA in the state, Md Abdul Nasir, will sit in the opposition benches in the Manipur Assembly.

The withdrawal, however,

will not have any impact on the Biren Singh government as the BJP has 37 seats in the 60 member Assembly and is also supported by five MLAs of Naga People's Front (NPF) and three independents.

In the letter to Governor Bhalla, the JD(U) state president had said, "In the election to state Assembly of Manipur held in February March 2022, six candidates set up by JD (U) were returned. After a few months, five MLAs of JD (U) defected to BJP. Trial under Tenth Schedule of India of the five MLAs is pending before the Speaker's Tribunal."

"After JD (U) became part of India Bloc, support to the BJP led government was withdrawn by JD(U). As such, seating arrangement of the lone MLA of JD(U) in Manipur Md Abdul Nasir is made in the Opposition bench in the last session of the Assembly by the Speaker," it added.

CURIOUS CASE OF A 'SOLITARY' SUNFISH

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tokyo, Jan 22: A solitary sunfish at an aquarium in southwestern Japan lost its appetite, began banging into the side of the fishtank and appeared unwell days after the facility closed last month for renovations. As a last-ditch measure to save the popular fish, its keepers hung their uniforms and set up human cutouts outside the tank.

The next morning, the sunfish ate for the first time in about a week and has been steadily recovering, said Moe Miyazawa, an aquarist at the Kaikyokan aquarium in Shimonoseki.

The large sunfish arrived at the aquarium in February 2024 from the southern coast of Kochi in the Pacific



Ocean. The sunfish, a member of the blowfish family known for its unique shape and big eyes, became one of the most popular attractions at the facility.

When the sunfish began looking unwell days after the aquarium closed December 1 for a six-month renovation, its keepers suspected digestive problems, gave it less food and visited the fish tank to comfort the sunfish when there was construction noise, but to no avail.

Then at a staff meeting,

one person suggested that the sunfish might have been affected by the sudden absence of an audience.

"We were sceptical but decided to do anything we could," Miyazawa said. They hung their uniforms and placed human-shaped cutouts with photos of smiling faces outside the tank to cheer on the fish, Miyazawa said.

"I knew (the sunfish) was looking at us when we were placing them, but I never thought it would start eating the next day," Miyazawa said, beaming. The staff now visit more often and wave at the sunfish.

The aquarium keepers say they hope many fans will return to see the sunfish when the aquarium reopens in the summer.

2 suicides in a day rock Kota

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kota, Jan 22: A medical aspirant from Gujarat and an Assam native taking coaching for JEE committed suicide by hanging in Kota within two hours Wednesday, police said. With their deaths, the coaching hub has witnessed six such cases in the first 22 days of the year.

24-year-old NEET aspirant Ashfa Sheikh, a native of Gujarat's Ahmedabad, ended her life by hanging herself in her paying guest room in the Jawahar Nagar area at around 10am, police said.

As police were probing Sheikh's case, just two hours later the Mahaveer Nagar police received information about another student's suicide. At around noon, an 18-year-old JEE aspirant from Assam's Guwahati committed suicide by hanging himself from an iron angle in his hostel room.

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UG (3 years/4 years)/Integrated (5 years) Programmes [All 4 years Programmes are with Honors/Research]

| B.Tech Programmes | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil • Construction Technology • Electrical • Electrical & Computer Science • Mechanical • Mechanical (Automobile) • Aerospace | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechatronics • Electronics & Telecommunication • Electronics & Computer Science • Electronics & Electrical • Electronics (VLSI Design & Technology) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical • Computer Science & Engineering (CSE) • CSE (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning) • CSE (Artificial Intelligence) • CSE (Cyber Security) • CSE (Data Science) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSE (Internet of Things & Cyber Security including Block Chain Technology) • CSE (Internet of Things) • Information Technology • Computer Science & System • Computer Science & Communication |

UG Programmes in other Disciplines

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.Design (Automobile/Graphic/Product) • B.Design (Fashion / Textile) • B.Tech & M.Tech Biotechnology (5yrs) • B.Tech (Lateral Entry) • B.Arch • BCA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBA • B.Sc (Hospitality & Tourism) • Bachelor of Film & Television Production • Bachelor of Communication & Journalism • BA Economics • BA Sociology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BA English • BA Psychology • BA French • BA Spanish • BA Japanese • BA German • B.Com | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B.Sc (Economics & Data Analytics) • B.Sc Computer Science • B.Sc Nursing • B.Pharma • D.Pharma • BA LLB/BBA LLB/B.Sc LLB (Hons) 5yrs |
|--|---|---|---|

PG (1 year/2 years)/Integrated (5 years) Programmes

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M.Tech • LLM (1yr) • MCA • M.Sc Biotechnology • M.Sc Applied Microbiology • M.Arch • MBA • MBA in Rural Management • MBA in Agribusiness Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master of Communication & Journalism • Master in Urban & Regional Planning • Master in Yoga & Naturopathy • Master of Hospital Administration • Master of Public Health • M. Design (Interior) • M.Sc Computer Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MA Economics • MA Sociology • MA English • MA Psychology • Master in Public Policy • M.Com • M.Sc Physics • M.Sc Chemistry • M.Sc Mathematics & Data Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master in Library & Information Sciences • Master in Physical Education & Sports • M.Sc Nursing • Integrated M.Tech & Ph.D • Ph.D |
|---|--|--|---|

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KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe.

leisure



BIEBER UNFOLLOWS HAILEY AMID DIVORCE RUMOURS

Mumbai: Singer-songwriter Justin Bieber has sparked concern among his fans with regards to his marriage to Hailey Bieber. Justin has unfollowed his wife Hailey on Instagram. The couple had welcomed their first child last year, but have been at the centre of split speculations for months, reports *Mirror.co.uk*.

DYLAN'S MR. TAMBOURINE MAN LYRICS SOLD FOR OVER \$500,000

Bob Dylan's *Mr. Tambourine Man* is one of the most iconic tracks, and a gift that keeps giving. Two pages of Bob's drafted lyrics to *Mr. Tambourine Man* have been auctioned for over half a million dollars.



FORTUNE FORECAST

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ARIES
 Today, a romantic link-up is about to be delivered at your doorstep, all wrapped in silver and tinsel! So, Ganesha hopes you are prepared. Don your best attire, check your breath and practice some sweet-talking. After all, who knows what the evening will lead to? Only Ganesha, and he's smiling an impish grin! Need more clue?

TAURUS
 Chaos will reign supreme as unexpected things occur and expected ones are missed out on, says Ganesha. Luck will favour you and nothing is powerful enough to hamper you other than your own thoughts. You will dodge any trouble that is headed your way and escape easily, much to the embarrassment of others.

GEMINI
 If you have children, they will be a pampered lot today, says Ganesha. Your affection, however, may not have its desired impact. Children are known to be unpredictable, but keep an eye on their activities, especially today. You may entertain your loved ones with a sumptuous dinner tonight. Your creative side will do well for itself, feels Ganesha.

CANCER
 Today, you will need to rise above your emotional leanings and will have to choose between doing the right thing and keeping your loved ones happy. So far, you have managed to strike a balance. It is about time that you learn to deal with your fears, suggests Ganesha.

LEO
 Friendships are supposed to last forever. But it all depends on whether or not the friend is around when most needed. Today, your pals may turn to you for help, and sure enough, you will be there to extend all the support you can, says Ganesha. Get ready to make new acquaintances today, some of whom may go on to become life-long friends.

VIRGO
 You are the banner carrier for those around you today, giving hope and inspiring. Clad yourself in robes of the perfect family man. This should spread warmth and love, and will work wonders in improving relationships.

LIBRA
 Call it two sides of the same coin, but today, you shall have the uncanny desire to be your own master and servant. But this day is all set to be animated and eventful and full of life. Expect a few run-ins with the opposite sex, as you are bound to attract quite a few of them, mainly because of your killer good looks.

SCORPIO
 You may find yourself sulking in your shell today, feels Ganesha. One event or another may lead you to shut out work. Hindsight and bitterness will not lead you anywhere, so Ganesha advises that you must steer clear of negativity.

SAGITTARIUS
 A nice, easy and pleasant day is on the cards. Your professional approach will bring you much appreciation, especially in the way you handle complicated problems. The way you balance people's opinions will help you make many friends.

CAPRICORN
 Recognition and rewards are awaiting you at work, and unlike in most cases, colleagues won't be envious of your success. They will, in fact, provide the much-needed motivation for taking up new and challenging projects, says Ganesha.

AQUARIUS
 Today, your social butterflies will set hearts fluttering! Also, whatever you have been working on will reach completion now. You do have a great vision, but you're lost when it comes to executing your plans.

PISCES
 The focus today is on touching base with your near and dear ones, says Ganesha. It is likely that you will renew some old associations in a social function, or in matters related to business. You are likely to surge ahead of your competitors when it comes to work related matters.

Shraddha's inactivity on social media

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor has finally shared the reason as to why she is not posting much on social media. Shraddha took to her Instagram stories section, where she posted a picture of herself studying. She is seen sitting on a table and reading a book. "Isiliye post kam kar rahi hoon... (This is why I am posting less)," she wrote as the caption, without revealing what she is reading. On January 21, Shraddha re-shared a picture posted by her brother Siddhanth Kapoor on her Instagram story. The photograph seemed to be from a wedding. For the caption, the actress made a reference from the film *Andaz Apna Apna*, where their father Shakti Kapoor played the role of the funny villain Crime Master Gogo. She wrote as the caption: "Gogo ke bacche dekho kitne achhe."

Meanwhile, 2024 has been an incredible year for Shraddha, as *Stree 2* raced ahead of the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Jawan* to become the biggest hit in Hindi cinema before it was beaten by the Allu Arjun-starrer *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. On the work front, the actress will reportedly star in the next installment of the *Dhoom* franchise alongside actor Ranbir Kapoor, with whom she worked in the 2023 film *Tu Jhoothi Main Makkaar*. IANS



Sagarika on her comeback

Mumbai: Actress Sagarika Z Ghatge, who is making a comeback after eight years with the film *Lalaat*, says it has not been easy to just walk in and get a film. Talking about why she decided on making a comeback amidst chatter about her plans to have a baby, Sagarika told this agency: "There's no straightforward answer to this. Of course, there are plenty of opportunities with the variety of films and series being made today, and it's exciting to see horizons expanding—not just for actors but for audiences too." "However, it hasn't been easy to just walk in and land a film." "For someone like me, who took a break, getting back to work wasn't simple. But I'm grateful to have a film now that will showcase my work, and I hope it encourages people, especially those who assumed I didn't want to work, to reach out in the future," said the actress, who made her Bollywood debut in 2007 with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Chak De! India*. The actress, who is married to former cricketer Zaheer Khan, said that the script was the key reason she chose this film, along with the opportunity to step into a character who is both "naive and incredibly strong, with so much bravery and depth." IANS



An interactive session after the screening

14th edition of IFFB commences in City

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The 14th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Bhubaneswar (IFFB), organised by Film Society Bhubaneswar (FSB), kicked off here at the Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra (GKCM) Odissi Research Centre, Wednesday. In his opening statement, FSB president Subrata Beura said, "As the only functioning film society in Odisha, our efforts are dedicated to making world-class cinema accessible to the people of the state and giving Bhubaneswar's residents a chance to engage with India's finest filmmakers." The festival's first day featured two short films: *Gagan Gaman*, which used folk music and riddles to explore deep personal questions, and *Dharam Sankat*, set in Delhi, following young people navigating the complexities of passion, politics, and social challenges. A key highlight of the day was the screening of a newly restored 4K version of the National Award-winning film *Ghatashraddha* by Girish Kasaravalli. The Kannada drama tells the story of a bullied Brahmin boy and a headmaster's daughter. Gripping Bengali film *Dhruvor Aschorjo Jibon*, which won the Best Bangla Film award at the Kolkata International Film Festival, was another highlight of the day. The story of the film revolves around one man's enigmatic life and quest to uncover the truth about his own origins. The screening was followed by an interaction with the director Abhijit Chowdhury. The programme continued with the Santhali movie *Tortoise under the Earth* by Shishir Jha, depicting life in Jharkhand's uranium mining region, and *Emuthi Puthi*, an Assamese film shot on an iPhone, which humorously addresses the tension between defiance and duty. **Orissa POST**, state's only home-grown English daily, and Odia daily *Dharitri* are the print media partners of the event. PNN

₹50K: Saif's token gratitude to auto driver

Mumbai: Saif Ali Khan was stabbed at his home during an attempt at burglary and he was rushed to the Lilavati hospital. Saif was taken to the hospital in an auto rickshaw. The driver's name was Bhajan Singh Rana. Now that Saif is back from the hospital safe and healthy, he met the driver before coming home and even hugged him. He thanked him and expressed gratitude for being so quick and making him reach the hospital safely. When asked what Saif told him, Rana revealed to an entertainment



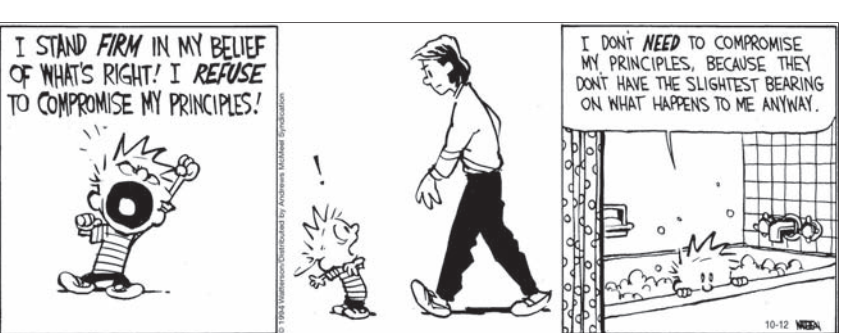
portal, "He told me, you made me reach the hospital on time and

thanked me." When further asked him if he got any money from Saif after coming home, the rickshaw driver said, "That is something which he knows. I didn't think of any money, nor did I have any demands. And it's not my prerogative to talk about it. I just took whatever he gave me and I am happy with it as it was not really about any money." However, a source revealed that Saif Ali Khan gave Rs 50,000 to the auto rickshaw driver as a token of saying thank you to him. IANS

PEANUTS



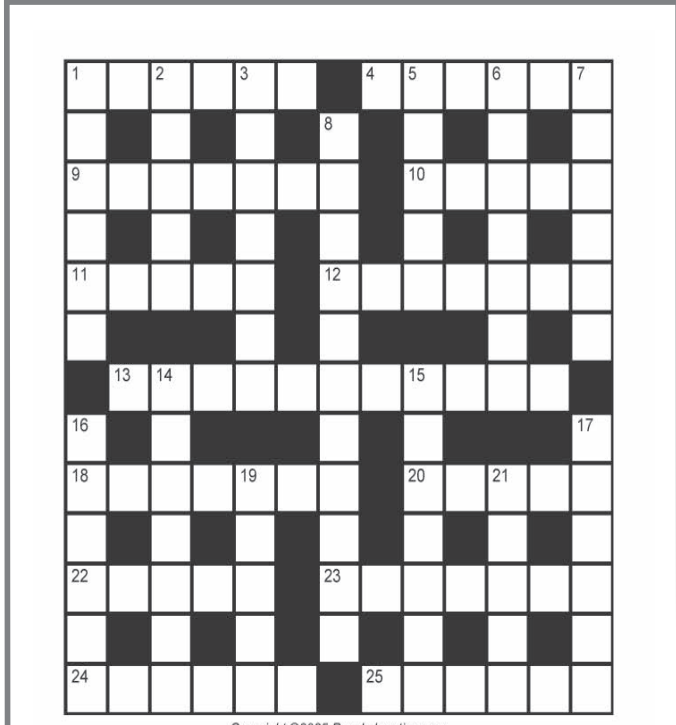
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



FUN POST CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Use a credit card
 - 4 Bring in, as goods
 - 9 Type of sale
 - 10 Look of disdain
 - 11 Medicinal plant
 - 12 Answer
 - 13 Lots of hard work (5,6)
 - 18 Shape
 - 20 Embroidery stitch
 - 22 Unrefined
 - 23 Winery event
 - 24 Confused and vague
 - 25 Marine mollusk
 - 5 Exodus leader
 - 6 Burdensome
 - 7 Tongue-lashing
 - 8 Cool
 - 14 Dreamy
 - 15 Diplomatic building
 - 16 Flame tree
 - 17 Account book
 - 19 Corpulent plus
 - 21 Geological fault
- Down**
- 1 Ruby-red
 - 2 Jordan's capital
 - 3 Camel's cousin

SUDOKU

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

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

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | H | A | D | O | W | S | C | O | T | T | A |
| T | P | C | L | O | O | R | | | | | |
| N | E | R | V | E | E | M | P | E | R | O | R |
| A | I | A | E | E | Y | S | E | | | | |
| I | N | C | O | N | S | P | I | C | U | O | U |
| O | | Y | A | | | | | | | | |
| G | A | T | H | E | R | S | T | A | G | E | S |
| O | X | O | | | | | | | | | |
| B | E | A | S | T | O | F | B | U | R | D | E |
| L | T | I | F | N | D | A | | | | | |
| I | N | T | E | N | S | E | C | R | E | E | D |
| N | A | C | N | L | S | I | | | | | |
| S | P | R | A | T | | D | R | E | S | S | E |

SUDOKU

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

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha government Wednesday constituted the sixth State Finance Commission ahead of the visit of the 16th Finance Commission in the first week of February. A notification by the Finance department said retired IAS officer Arun Kumar Panda will be the chairman of the State Finance Commission. Professor Asit Ranjan Mohanty of XIMB, Professor Amaresh Samantray of the department of Economics, Pondicherry University, and Professor Bibhu Prasad Nayak of TISS will be its members, while Dr Satya Priya Rath, additional secretary, Finance department will be the member secretary. The chairman and other members of the commission including member secretary will remain in office for a period of six months, the notification said.

downtown



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi receives the first ticket of the second ODI match between India and England to be played at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack from OCA working president Pankaj Mohanty, secretary Sanjay Behera and Apex Council Member & Angul MLA Pratap Pradhan in presence of other dignitaries, in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday

CM buys 1st ticket for Barabati ODI

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The first ticket of the second One-Day International (ODI) match between India and England to be played at Barabati Stadium February 9

was bought by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) working president Pankaj Mohanty, secretary Sanjay Behera and Apex Council Member & Angul MLA Pratap Pradhan met the Chief Minister and handed over the match ticket Wednesday. The second ODI between India and England will be played at Barabati Stadium in Cuttack. Odisha Olympic Association's secretary Abhijit Pal and former MLA Lalitendu Bidyadhar Mohapatra were also present during the meeting. Barabati is hoisting the ODI match after a gap of over five years.

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Cabinet nod: Model school in each GP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, Wednesday approved upgradation of one government-run primary school in each of the 6,794 gram panchayats in the state to model school under Godabarish Mishra Adarsh Prathamik Vidyalaya (GMAPV) scheme. Speaking to reporters after the Cabinet meet, Majhi said, "Government-run primary schools in 6,794 gram panchayats of Odisha will be upgraded to model schools under GMAPV scheme. The state government will spend Rs 11,939.41 crore towards upgradation of these schools over five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29."

The estimated cost per school ranges between Rs 1 crore and Rs 4 crore, depending upon the number of enrolments in each school. The actual expenditure would be based on the detailed project report (DPR), he said. He added that operationalising 6,794 model primary schools would enhance educational access, deliver quality education, and foster the holistic development of students. The initiative would also promote inclusivity and establish benchmark institutions aligned with the objectives of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020, and the NIPUN Odisha Programme, aimed at strengthening

'Developed Odisha' scheme okayed

The Cabinet also approved a new scheme - Bikshita Gaon, Bikashita Odisha -- for the inclusive growth of

5K medical officers to be recruited soon

The state Cabinet approved amendment to Odisha Medical & Health Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2017, paving way for recruitment of more than 5,000 medical officers through Odisha Public Service Commission (OPSC). The Cabinet also approved the proposal to amend Odisha Medical Services (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service of Dental Surgeon) Rules, 2022. Following the amendment, the state government will recruit more than 100 dental surgeons through OPSC.

rural Odisha through various sustainable development projects. The scheme is set to continue for five years, with a project outlay of Rs 5,000 crore, which may be extended based on the government's decision. A budgetary provision of Rs 1,000 crore has already been allocated in the Budget estimate for 2024-2025. The projects would help bridge critical gaps and accelerate the growth of rural Odisha. The focus will pri-

marily be on developing rural roads and infrastructure, creating civic assets and amenities, improving sports infrastructure, and enhancing micro-tourism spots.

According to official sources, the development of both inter-village and intra-village roads will be a top priority under this scheme. It also plans to undertake need-based community projects to create durable assets for the community.

The community will be sensitised to remain vigilant, supervise the quality of work, and ensure the upkeep and maintenance of these assets. Need-based project lists, a five-year prospective plan, and an annual action plan for each financial year will be prepared by the Gram Sabha and recommended to the block by the gram panchayat. The project lists will be scrutinised by a technical committee at the block level, based on feasibility, admissibility, and financial limits. The Collector of the respective district will serve as the approving authority.

foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) skills among students. The Chief Minister further an-

nounced that in the first phase, model schools would be set up in 114 gram panchayats.

Jumbo calf dies in NZP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Barang, Jan 22: An elephant calf that had fallen into a pit in Karanjia Forest Division and was rescued and later shifted to Nandankanan Zoological Park succumbed to its injuries in the wee hours of Wednesday.

The five-year-old elephant calf with severe spinal injuries was brought to the City zoo January 6 for treatment. The injuries had left the calf's hind legs paralyzed, making it unable to stand or move properly, according to sources. Subsequently, the calf also suffered from paralysis. Upon arrival at Nandankanan, veterinarians and specialists conducted blood



tests and X-rays, which confirmed the paralysis.

As per expert recommendations, the calf was placed in a sling to relieve pressure on its limbs and aid recovery.

Despite feeding on grass, leaves, and banana plants, the elephant faced severe constipation, which required veterinarians to manually clear its bowels at regular intervals.

Several efforts made to rehabilitate the elephant proved futile. Health assessments conducted by Nandankanan Health Committee January 6 and 16 showed no signs of improvement in its condition.

Despite dedicated efforts of the veterinary team and experts, the elephant's health continued to deteriorate, eventually leading to its death late Tuesday night.

Business summit to see more than 5K delegates

UTKARSH ODISHA-2025



PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: More than 5,000 delegates, including envoys, investors and industrialists from across India and 12 other countries, are expected to participate in the two-day Odisha business conclave, starting from January 28, an official said Wednesday.

State Industries department Principal Secretary Hemant Sharma said the government had invited 100, out of 400 Fortune companies, to participate in 'Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha' summit.

"We have invited investors from 12 countries, including Australia, Japan, the UK, Germany, Singapore, Malaysia, Cuba, and Holland for the Utkarsh Odisha Conclave. We expect that 5,000 delegates, including envoys of several countries and investors, will attend the business summit during the two days," Sharma said.

IT, renewable energy, chemicals, textile and food processing have been selected as five focus sectors to attract investors during the meet

IT, renewable energy, chemicals, textile and food processing have been selected as five focus sectors to attract investors during the meet. Noting that preparations for the business conclave are almost at the last stage, Sharma said sectoral sessions would be organised during the event, besides cultural programmes in the evenings.

Ahead of the two-day meet, several national council meetings of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), which is the partner of the state for hosting the conclave, will be held January 27, Sharma said.

At par with the Centre's 'Vocal for Local' campaign, the state government has decided to felicitate two young entrepreneurs from each district of the 30 districts of Odisha during the valedictory function, he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the business conclave January 28 in Bhubaneswar.

SLSWCA approves ₹3,883cr projects

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The State Level Single Window Clearance Authority (SLSWCA), chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja, approved 17 industrial projects with a combined investment of Rs 3,883.72 crore, Wednesday.

Addressing media after the SLSWCA meeting, Ahuja said the 'landmark' clearance ahead of the Utkarsh Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 showcases the state's proactive approach to attracting investments and fostering industrial excellence under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. The projects in sectors like steel, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, green hydrogen, tourism, and petro-

leum, are expected to generate over 12,280 jobs for the youth of Odisha, he said.

BR Steel and Power Limited's proposal to build a unit at an investment of Rs 871 crore in Sambalpur and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited's proposal to set up a 99MW wind power facility at an investment of Rs 852.12 crore in Rayagada got the SLSWCA's approval. These projects will provide jobs to 5,192 individuals.

Among others, Bioluxe Energy and Power Private Limited's proposal to set up a compressed biogas plant with annual capacity 5,475MT along with 64,350MTPA fermented organic manure unit in Dhenkanal also got the state government's approval. With an investment of Rs 73.17 crore, the facility is expected to provide jobs to 125 persons.

Honouring the Courage and Valour of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose - an Epitome of Patriotism

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23rd JANUARY

On the occasion of 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
Exhibition and Cultural Programme
23-25 January, 2025 | Barabati Fort, Cuttack, Odisha

Inauguration by
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Govt signs key pacts to address climate change



Odisha government joins hands with IIT-Bhubaneswar, WFP, and CEEW to focus on areas include coastal restoration, resilient farming, and a net-zero roadmap

with the institutions in presence of department Minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia here.

The first MoU signed with IIT under the Enhancing Climate Resilience of India's Coastal Communities (ECRICC) project focuses on restoring critical coastal ecosystems, including seagrass beds and salt marshes, which are vital for biodiversity, carbon sequestration, and coastal protection, an official said.

Designated as the technical support agency (TSA) for the restoration, protection and sustainable management of seagrass and saltmarsh ecosystems along Odisha coast, IIT-Bhubaneswar will provide technical support for implementing sustainable strategies to manage these ecosystems, he said.

Minister Singhkhuntia said the collaboration would pave the way for enhanced research opportunities and community engagement initiatives to promote sustainable coastal man-

agement practices.

The state also inked a LoU with the WFP for a regional adaptation project between India and Sri Lanka called Adaptation for Resilience (ADAT4R) to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable farming communities facing increased impacts of climate change.

Focused on Nuapada district, this five-year initiative aims to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable farming communities, particularly women farmers, against the impacts of climate change, the official informed.

Supported by the Adaptation Fund, the project will promote diversified livelihoods, resilient farming practices, and improved access to climate services.

The MoU with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), one of Asia's leading think tanks, was signed to develop a net-zero roadmap for the state.

The initiative will chart decarbonisation strategies across key sectors such as industry, power, transport, and agriculture. This partnership marks a significant step in aligning Odisha's economic growth with India's 2070 net-zero targets, Minister Singhkhuntia said.

Collectively, these initiatives strengthen the state's Vision Odisha 2036, advancing its goals of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, he added.

CURTAINS DOWN ON AJIT'S MULTILINGUAL DRAMA FEST



Canmass theatre troupe of Paradip performed Odia play 'Bitarkita Aparahna' on the 3rd and last evening of the event at Rabindra Mandap, Bhubaneswar, Wednesday. Srimannarayan Mishra directed the drama. The festival marked the silver jubilee year of the troupe as well as the 75th birth anniversary of its founder late actor-director Ajit Das

Anti-Maoist operations in a decisive phase: DGP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Nuapada/Bhawanipatna, Jan 22: Odisha's Director General of Police (DGP), YB Khurania, visited Nuapada and Kalahandi districts Wednesday to review Maoist activities along with the Superintendents of Police (SPs) of Chhattisgarh and Nuapada.

DGP Khurania further noted that the anti-Maoist efforts in Nuapada and Kalahandi districts have reached a decisive

phase, reflecting the state police's commitment to combating insurgency effectively.

He disclosed that, over the past two days, several Maoists have been killed during an exchange of fire between security personnel and Maoists in the in Kularighat reserve forest, under the Mainpur police limits in Gariaband district in Chhattisgarh bordering Nuapada district.

Currently, 14 bodies have been recovered, with expectations of finding more. Two



security personnel, Neeraj Kumar from Chhattisgarh and Dharmendra Bhoi from Odisha, sustained injuries in the operation, according to DGP Khurania at a press briefing held at the district police headquarters in Nuapada.

During his visit to Kalahandi district on the same day, DGP Khurania assessed the progress of anti-Maoist operations. He first visited the CRPF camp in Bhawanipatna sub-division, where he interacted with the personnel. Later, at a press conference held at the district police headquarters in Bhawanipatna, he commended the role of Odisha Police in the Maoist operation conducted near the Chhattisgarh-Nuapada border at Gariaband.

AIIEA meet to be held in City

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The Platinum Jubilee Conference of the All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA) will be held at KIIT University here, from December 28 for six days, a university official said Wednesday.

The event will witness the participation of around 2,000 delegates from across the country.

This marks the first time in 35 years that the conference is being hosted in Odisha. Delegates will engage in extensive discussions on the responsibilities of workers in the current national and global context. Additionally, a blueprint for future programmes and strategies will be developed during the conference.

To facilitate the event, a reception committee was recently formed in a meeting held at the divisional office premises of the local life insurance association.

Rajesh Mohapatra has been elected as the chairman of the reception committee, while Ramakant Das will serve as convener, and Arun Kumar Mohanty as treasurer. Representatives from various central trade unions, as well as employees from the central and state governments, railways, and the pharmaceutical industry, are also part of the organising team.

CBP on export & trade held at SOA



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: A capacity-building programme (CBP) on 'Foreign Trade, Logistics, and Exports' was recently conducted at Siksha 'O' Anusandhan (SOA), Deemed to be University.

Organised by the All Odisha SC-ST Chamber of Commerce and Industries (OSCI) in collaboration with the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and SOA, the event focused on empowering entrepreneurs and businesses in export and foreign trade.

SIDBI deputy general manager Pradyumna Kumar Choudhury, delivering the keynote address, highlighted the critical role of banks in supporting Micro, Small, and

Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through training, marketing assistance, and participation in international trade fairs.

Joint director of Foreign Trade from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Amit Kumar emphasised the significance of information technology in identifying international buyers and promoting export growth.

APEDA's Kolkata regional head SK Mandal, discussed the vast opportunities for exporting food and agricultural products, while SOA vice-chancellor Pradipta Kumar Nanda stressed the need for start-up and MSME support to realise their export potential. OSMEE secretary general Swastik Swain pointed out Odisha's strong prospects for exporting food products, fish, agricultural goods, and millets.

Cop gets 20 years in jail for raping minor

AGENCIES

Phulbani, Jan 22: A court in Kandhamal district Wednesday sentenced a police constable to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) for raping a minor girl in 2020.

Additional District Judge-cum-POCSO Court Special Judge, Phulbani, Rajesh Kumar Das, held Gobinda Pradhan, a constable at Phulbani Town Police Station, guilty in the case.



Das lured the girl with some snacks when she was playing at an isolated place in her village under Town police station area and raped her.

He was arrested after her family members lodged a complaint with the police.

The court also directed the District Legal Service Authority to pay a compensation of ₹7 lakh to the family of the rape survivor, Special Public Prosecutor of the court, Asim Panigrahi said.

Santali language inclusion in curriculum demanded

Santali speakers push for language inclusion in secondary education and call for equitable recognition under Odisha's NEP 2020 rollout

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The Santali Saonhed Akhada recently submitted a memorandum to the Secretary of the School and Mass Education department, urging the inclusion of the Santali language in Odisha's education curriculum as part of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 implementation.

With the NEP 2020 set to be rolled out in Odisha from the academic year 2025-26, the government has formed a steering committee and organised a three-day workshop to facilitate the policy's execution.

Currently, Santali is taught in some primary schools in Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts for grades 1 to 5 and at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. However, the language is absent in the curriculum for grades 6 to 12, leading to high dropout rates among Santali-speaking students and hindering the language's progress in education.

The memorandum pointed out that while languages like



Odia, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Telugu, and Bengali are promoted as first and third languages in Odisha's education system, Santali—a constitutionally recognised language—has been overlooked. It urged its inclusion at the secondary and higher secondary levels to preserve and promote the language.

Representatives of the Santali Saonhed Akhada, including President Malati Murmu, Editor Kailash Chandra Baskey, and members Sabita Soren and Surukuni Murmu, emphasised the cultural and constitutional significance of Santali.

They called for immediate steps to integrate it into the curriculum to support the Santali-speaking community and ensure equitable education.

2 IVORIES SEIZED IN MAYURBHANJ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Baripada, Jan 22: Officials of Forest department Wednesday seized two elephant ivories and detained four people involved in the illegal trade in Mayurbhanj district, an official said.

One ivory weighs 1 kg while the other one weighs 1.2 kg, said a forest official.

The ivories were seized from Jharpokharia police station area in the district when four people were transporting the elephant body parts to neighbouring Jharkhand, the official said.

On receiving a tip-off, the Forest department intercepted the accused persons travelling on two motorcycles, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Rabi Narayan Mohanty said.

Two of the detained persons are from Jharkhand while the other two are from Rasgoinpur area of Mayurbhanj district, he said.

WEATHER

| | BBSR | CTC |
|----------|-------|-------|
| Max Temp | 31.9° | 29.5° |
| Min Temp | 14.4° | 14.8° |
| Humidity | 89% | 89% |
| Rainfall | Nil | Nil |

FORECAST
Fog/mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later.

1 in 12 children exposed to online sexual abuse: Lancet

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 22: One in 12 children around the world has been exposed to some form of online sexual abuse or exploitation in the past year, according to a study published in "The Lancet Child and Adolescent Health" journal.

Researchers, including from the University of Edinburgh in UK, analysed 123 recent studies conducted in 57 countries to build a global picture.

To understand the prevalence and nature of online child sexual abuse and exploitation, the study identified four subtypes - online sexual exploita-



tion (4.7 per cent global prevalence), sexual extortion (3.5 per cent), image-based sexual abuse and online solicitation.

It was found that one in eight children globally was affected

ity or exposure.

"One in 12 children globally was subjected to at least one form of online sexual exploitation or abuse in the past year," the authors wrote.

However, in regions, including South Asia, where current evidence is either limited or non-existent, the team called for more research.

"East Asia, North Africa, Middle East and South Asia are lacking prevalence data; these regions constitute a large percentage of the global population of children so there is an urgent need for research at a national level in these regions," they wrote.

The findings pointed to the

need for increased legislation and primary prevention efforts to keep children safe.

Further, the researchers found no significant difference between the experiences of girls and boys with respect to online sexual victimisation from representative surveys, in contrast to previous evidence suggesting girls being more vulnerable than boys.

The authors proposed that changes in online environments may have increased victimisation rates for boys. They added that previous definitions of sexual exploitation involving contact do not hold true for online environments.

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Sambalpur: Loss of greenery sparks concern Tepid response to bandh call over trafficked girls

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Jan 22: Even though the Forest department has been spending crores of rupees annually on conservation of greeneries, Sambalpur district has witnessed a steady decline in forest cover, raising concerns among nature lovers and environmentalists.



divisions will reveal the truth. Out of 2,254 sq km surveyed in Sambalpur Sadar forest division, 745.87 sq km (33.09%) is forested area. However, the division has suffered a 12 per cent loss in forest area.

Bamra wildlife division, where 2,351 sq km were surveyed, has lost 18 sq km, as compared to the previous survey, and is now left with 1,172 sq km (49.84%) forest area.

damage caused to the district's forests remains bigger.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) for Sambalpur Circle T Ashok Kumar acknowledged the decline in open forest areas. However, he highlighted that both dense and minor forests in the district have increased.

According to 2023 data, dense forests in the district have expanded by 492.67 sq km, as compared to 2021, while minor forests have grown by 1,514.70 sq km. In contrast, open forests continue to decline, partly due to government development activities and recurring forest fires.

"The exact reasons behind forest depletion are complex and require a detailed study," Kumar said, while stressing the importance of raising awareness and implementing timely measures to address the issue effectively.

The growing loss of forest cover calls for urgent intervention to protect the district's ecological balance and biodiversity.



RAJESH MOHANTY, OP

Rourkela, Jan 22: A bandh call given by Koshal Samaj (KS) received lukewarm response in Sundargarh Wednesday. The bandh was organised to protest the trafficking and alleged physical and mental exploitation of minor girls from various gram panchayats in Lephripara block to Tamil Nadu.

Some schools were closed, and most business establishments shut their doors. Protesters also forced some offices and banks to suspend operations.

State Highway 10 (Biju Expressway) was blocked by KS members, who staged a sit-in near Patrapalli crossing. As a result, buses from interior areas were largely off the roads.

However, the police facilitated the movement of some vehicles to prevent congestion and minimize passenger inconvenience.

The primary demand of the KS is for swift action by the district administration to rescue the 90 girls who were allegedly trafficked to Tamil Nadu. KS general secretary Dilip Panda criticised the administration's indifferent approach, saying, "Over 90 girls have been taken to Tamil Nadu. Their parents want them back. Despite sit-in demonstrations and discussions with the District Collector, the administration has shown a casual attitude toward the plight of these parents."

Reports indicate that a private organisation had trained the girls in skills such as stitching and initially moved them to Cuttack before taking them to Tamil Nadu. Parents claim the girls have since reported being exploited and harassed.

Following the protests, Sundargarh Collector Manoj Satyawan Mahajan engaged with the organisation responsible for the girls' relocation. Mahajan reportedly urged the organisation's owner to take immediate action and repatriate the girls. However, when he visited Tamil Nadu and attempted to resolve the issue, he faced threats and did not receive a satisfactory response from the organisation. The KS has vowed to continue its agitation until concrete steps are taken to bring the girls back and ensure their safety.

Trap laid by poachers claims couple's lives

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Koraput, Jan 22: A man and his wife lost their lives inside a forest in Koraput district after coming in contact with a live wire, suspected to have been laid by poachers targeting wild animals, police said Wednesday.

Balaram Galel and his wife Bala were running a roadside tea stall, and had gone to the forest in the Nandapur police station area Monday evening to get firewood, they said. When they did not return home, their family and neighbours started searching for them.

"They found the bodies in the forest entangled in live electric wires, apparently laid by poachers as animal traps," a police officer said.

"The bodies have been recovered and sent for post-mortem examinations. Efforts are underway to arrest those responsible for laying the wires," he said.



Lecturer booked for rape bid on student

PNN & AGENCIES



PNN & AGENCIES

Jajpur, Jan 22: A lecturer of a private college in Jajpur district has been booked on charges of rape attempt on a student, police said Wednesday.

The third-year student alleged that the Economics lecturer took her to an empty room in the college, promising her more marks in the upcoming examination. There, he allegedly tried to rape her and when she resisted, he threatened that he would ensure she failed in the exam.

"I informed the principal about the incident on the day it happened. Without taking any action, he asked me to settle it amicably. Following this, I informed my family and the police complaint was lodged," the student claimed.

The college principal could not be reached for comment.

Students of the college also held a dharna at the entrance Monday, demanding action against the lecturer.

"A case has been registered against the lecturer. He has fled the area and efforts are underway to arrest him," said Jyotirmayee Sathy, the in-charge of the Bari Ramachandrapur police station.

Meanwhile, the survivor and her mother staged a sit-in outside the college entrance alleging police and administrative inaction. Mohd Manohar Ali, state coordinator of Nabanirman Yuva Chhattr Sangathan, and its district coordinator Aswini Kumar pledged their support to the survivor and her mother. Former Biju M.L.A. and B.J.P leader Sunanda Das also visited the spot and extended solidarity to the protesting survivor and her mother.

Navy official 'missing' on his way to Kerala

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: A 26-year-old junior-level Navy official went "missing" after he left his home town Berhampur in Ganjam district to join duty at a Naval unit in Kerala's Kochi, his family said Wednesday.

The Navy official, identified as Sourav Kumar Patra, joined the Indian Navy in 2019, and came to his home in December last year to attend a marriage ceremony, said Sameer Patra, Sourav's brother.

"He left home early January 19 morning and took a train to Visakhapatnam from where he was supposed to catch a flight at 12:30pm for Kochi. However, his mobile phone remained switched off since January 19 morning," the Navy official's brother said.

His family members lodged a missing complaint with Berhampur Town Police Wednesday, based on which a case was registered and a probe initiated, a senior officer said. Sameer requested Odisha Police and Indian Navy to trace his brother at the earliest.

"During preliminary investigation, the police found that Sourav's last mobile location was at Ichchapuram, a nearby station from Berhampur. Further investigation is under progress," the police officer said.

Man found dead; family cries murder

Sorada: A 55-year-old man was found dead inside a forest area near Ora village under Badagada police limits here in Ganjam district Tuesday. The family members of the deceased Kartika Swain, however, have termed it a murder. They alleged that a heated argument had ensued between Kartika and a few people over some land dispute a couple of days ago. Kartika left his home early in the morning to collect firewood from the nearby forest but did not return home. The family members grew suspicious and began a frantic search for Kartika to find him dead with multiple injuries in his body. Badagada police seized the body and began an investigation after registering a case on the basis of a complaint lodged by his family members. This is the second murder in the last 72 hours following the murder of one Damburu Swain under the same police limits. Police, however, had arrested the culprits within 24 hours of the complaint.

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PLANNING BOARD (A Statutory Body under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India) 1st Floor, Core-4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

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BEFORE THE HON'BLE XI ASSISTANT CITY CIVIL COURT AT CHENNAI O.S. No. 4601 OF 2024 Mr. Annada Prava Sahoo, Proprietor of 'M/s. Shree Yamuna Traders', vs. Plaintiff

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XI ASSISTANT CITY CIVIL COURT AT CHENNAI O.S. No. 4599 OF 2024 M/s. Kalesuwar Refinery Private Limited vs. Plaintiff

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XI ASSISTANT CITY CIVIL COURT AT CHENNAI O.S. No. 4599 OF 2024 Mr. Ramakant Jena, Proprietor of 'Omm Sri Padmabati Bhandar', vs. Plaintiff

IndianOil Pipelines Division Expression of Interest Notice for inviting applications for the post of 01 no. of 'Security Chief' to be engaged on contract basis for the security and surveillance of cross-country Pipelines of IndianOil Pipelines Division passing through the state of Odisha with posting at Sambalpur.

UCO Bank RENUKOOT BRANCH Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh-231217, Tel No.: 05446-256827, E-mail: renuko@ucobank.co.in E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE (Under SARFAESI Act 2002) (E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002) PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE/IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Man found dead; family cries murder Sorada: A 55-year-old man was found dead inside a forest area near Ora village under Badagada police limits here in Ganjam district Tuesday. The family members of the deceased Kartika Swain, however, have termed it a murder. They alleged that a heated argument had ensued between Kartika and a few people over some land dispute a couple of days ago. Kartika left his home early in the morning to collect firewood from the nearby forest but did not return home. The family members grew suspicious and began a frantic search for Kartika to find him dead with multiple injuries in his body. Badagada police seized the body and began an investigation after registering a case on the basis of a complaint lodged by his family members. This is the second murder in the last 72 hours following the murder of one Damburu Swain under the same police limits. Police, however, had arrested the culprits within 24 hours of the complaint.

भारत सरकार कारपोरेट कार्य मंत्रालय त्वरित कॉर्पोरेट समान प्रसंस्करण केन्द्र (सी-पेस), आई.आई.सी.ए. बिल्डिंग, 7वीं मंजिल, प्लॉट P-6, 7, 8, से.-5, आई.एम.टी. मानेसर, गुडगाँव, हरियाणा - 122050 Email: roc.cpace@mca.gov.in

Form No. STK - 6 PUBLIC NOTICE (Pursuant to sub-section (2) and sub-section (4) of section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 7 of the Companies (Removal of Names of Companies from the Register of Companies) Rules, 2016) Public Notice: ROC/C-PACE/STK-2/248(2)/2024-25/1463 Date: 23/12/2024 Reference: (1) In the matter of striking off or removal of names of (7) companies in the state of Odisha under section 248 of the Companies Act, 2013 in respect of:



THE MOTHER

We have every one of us a role to fulfill, a work to do, a place which we alone can occupy.

The Fundamentalist

The standard interpretation of the Russia-Ukraine war is that it is a "clash of cultures" pitting Western liberalism against traditional Russian authoritarianism. But this is deeply misleading. Far from being a traditionalist, Vladimir Putin is merely the latest in a series of murderous modernisers stretching from Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great to Catherine the Great and Stalin.

When Stalin was asked to define Bolshevism in the late 1920s, he described it as a combination of Russian dedication to a Cause and American pragmatism. Once in power, he sought to imitate the American industrialist Henry Ford's achievements throughout the Soviet Union, brutally erasing all traces of Russian tradition through, most prominently, the violent collectivisation of agriculture.

Stalin was also a great admirer of Peter the Great, who built a new capital for Russia on the Baltic Sea (St. Petersburg) to establish a direct link with Western Europe. Peter's reforms faced resistance from so-called Old Believers, Eastern Orthodox Christians whose liturgical and ritual practices predated the reforms carried out by Patriarch Nikon of Moscow in 1652-66. Many Old Believers ultimately chose death over compromising their faith. Between the seventeenth and nineteenth century, thousands died by self-immolation.

Things only really changed in Russia with the October Revolution; and even then, the first Soviet government included several prominent figures with Old Believer backgrounds. The Bolsheviks correctly saw such sectarians as representatives of a long-running social protest against the czarist regime. The Old Believers had always distrusted the unity of church and state (which really meant the former's subordination to the latter), insisting that the religious community remain a self-organisation of common people.

Not surprisingly, state persecution of religious believers intensified under Stalin, and the Orthodox Church's subordination to the state continues to this day. Putin, indeed, has mobilised the Church for his own political ends. According to Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, Russians need not fear nuclear war, because Christians should welcome the end of the world. "We await the Lord Jesus Christ who will come in great glory, destroy Evil, and judge all nations," he said late last year. Thus, what appears as a reactionary move – a return to the old orthodoxy – may in fact be a perverted expression of the rejection of the domination and exploitation that passes under the guise of "modernization" in the temporal world.

A very different, but illustrative, example of such resistance is Canudos, the nineteenth-century outlaw community deep in the Brazilian backlands of Bahia, which became a home to prostitutes, beggars, bandits, outcasts, and the poor under the leadership of the apocalyptic prophet Antônio Conselheiro. According to Eduardo Matarazzo Suplicy of the Workers' Party of Brazil: "This community developed a 'mutual, cooperative and solidary concept of work' ... a kind of socio-mystical, religious, assisting, community power inspired by the 'equalitarian fraternity of the primitive Christian communism,' in which there was no hunger. 'They all worked together. Nobody had anything. Everybody worked the soil, everybody labored. Harvested... Here's yours... Here's yours. Nobody got more nor less.' Conselheiro had read Thomas More, and his experiences were similar to those of utopian socialists Charles Fourier and Robert Owen. Canudos was razed by the Brazilian army, and Conselheiro was beheaded in 1897." (He had already died of illness.)

This refuge from money, property, taxes, and marriage did not disintegrate because of its internal tensions; it was destroyed by the armed forces of Brazil's "progressive" and secular government. Canudos was a place where the victims of historical progress had acquired a space of their own. Utopia actually existed for a brief moment, and that was too much for the modernisers. How else can one account for the slaughter of all inhabitants of Canudos, including women and children? The very memory of freedom had to be erased.

The obvious counterargument to the defense of Canudos is that religious fundamentalist projects like the Islamic State are no different. But a clear line separates the two. While Canudos openly welcomed the Other, the Islamic State – like all religious fundamentalists – does not. If today's "fundamentalists" sincerely believe that they have found their way to Truth, why do they feel so threatened by non-believers? After all, when a Buddhist encounters Western hedonists, he does not get worked up or feel the need to condemn them; he just shakes his head at their self-defeating search for happiness.

But pseudo-fundamentalists are obsessed with non-believers' sinful lives because the sins reflect their own temptations. Unlike the truly faithful, they envy, rather than pity, those who satisfy their appetites. Whereas Tibetan monks regard Tibet as "the center of the world, the heart of civilization," European civilization is decidedly ex-centered. Our central longing is to recover some ultimate pillar of Wisdom, secret agalma, or spiritual treasure that we lost long ago. Colonisation was never only about imposing Western values on others; it was also a quest for lost spiritual purity. This story is as old as Western civilization itself: For the ancient Greeks, Egypt was the mythical storehouse of ancient wisdom. In our own societies, the difference between authentic fundamentalists and perverted fundamentalists is that the first (like the American Amish) get along with their neighbours, because they are concerned with their own world, not with what others are doing. Perverted fundamentalists, by contrast, are haunted by ambivalence, motivated by a simultaneous horror and envy of sinners – an unholy brew that pushes them toward acts of violence, be it terrorist bombings or brutal invasions.

Putin's regime has nothing in common with an authentic Russian spirituality that rejects European modernisation. His fantasised "Eurasia" is merely a term to legitimise his own misbegotten modernisation project. That is why we must not dismiss Russia as a deeply conservative and traditionalist country that is forever lost to modernity. After all, the Russian spirituality embodied by the Old Believers rejects authoritarian state power. To defeat the perverts now ruling in the Kremlin, it will have to be reawakened.

The writer is Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School. ©PROJECT SYNDICATE

WISDOM CORNER

All compromise is based on give and take, but there can be no give and take on fundamentals. Any compromise on mere fundamentals is a surrender. For it is all give and no take. **MAHATMA GANDHI**

There are two kinds of teachers: the kind that fill you with so much quail shot that you can't move, and the kind that just gives you a little prod behind and you jump to the skies. **ROBERT FROST**

When we meet real tragedy in life, we can react in two ways - either by losing hope and falling into self-destructive habits, or by using the challenge to find our inner strength. Thanks to the teachings of Buddha, I have been able to take this second way. **DALAI LAMA**

FOCUS EMPLOYMENT

WORK-LIFE BALANCE

The concept of fixed working hours, particularly the 8-hour workday, is the result of centuries of struggle by labour movements worldwide. The Industrial Revolution brought long and gruelling workdays, often stretching to 14 or even 16 hours. Workers, subjected to harsh conditions, began to demand fair treatment and humane schedules, leading to landmark movements such as the Haymarket Affair in Chicago in 1886. These protests laid the foundation for labour laws advocating the 8-hour workday and reasonable weekly working hours. In 1919, the International Labour Organization (ILO) enshrined the 8-hour workday into international labour standards, and it gradually became a norm in many countries. Similarly, the concept of weekly off for employees in India traces back to colonial times, influenced by the Factories Act of 1881. Initially limited to industrial workers, the act aimed to regulate working hours and included provisions for rest days. The Factories Act of 1948 formalised a weekly holiday for workers, mandating one day of rest for every six days of work promoting work-life balance and employee welfare.



Bruhaspati Samal

THE FUTURE OF WORK MUST PRIORITISE QUALITY OVER QUANTITY, ENSURING THAT PROGRESS DOES NOT COME AT THE COST OF HUMANITY

Despite these hard-won rights, the modern era has witnessed renewed debates over working hours, with business leaders offering divergent views. Recent controversial statements by NR Narayana Murthy, founder of Infosys, advocating for 70-hour workweeks, and SN Subrahmanyam, Chairman of L&T, pushing for 90-hour weeks, have sparked nationwide discussions. These remarks, seen by many as regressive, undermine decades of progress and risk eroding work-life balance, a cornerstone of modern employment ethics. The debate around work-life balance is polarised, with influential leaders presenting contrasting views. On one side, Murthy dismisses the concept of



Establishing a uniform workweek of 40 hours across sectors, aligned with global best practices, would be a significant step forward

work-life balance, emphasising the need for hard work to drive economic growth. Subrahmanyam expressed regret over not making employees work on Sundays, reflecting a mindset focused solely on organisational productivity. On the other side, Anant Goenka of RPG Group champions a balanced approach, advocating for time allocated to family, health, and work. Sagar Adani from Adani Green Energy highlights "work-life harmony," a nuanced concept emphasising seamless integration rather than strict separation. Similarly, Torrent Power's Jinal Mehta supports a five-day workweek and flexible work-from-home options, and Nyrika Holkar from Godrej & Boyce emphasises creating engaging jobs to maintain employee satisfaction.

Working hours vary significantly across countries, reflecting differing economic structures, labour laws, and cultural norms. Developed nations such as Germany, Norway, and the Netherlands boast some of the shortest average working weeks, typically around 35-40 hours. Germany, for example, prioritises productivity over long hours, emphasizing quality over quantity. In contrast, developing economies like India, China, and Brazil often see extended workweeks exceeding 45-50 hours. Economic pressures and lack of stringent labour regulations contribute

To address these challenges, governments and corporations must act decisively. Establishing a uniform workweek of 40 hours across sectors, aligned with global best practices, would be a significant step forward. The government should mandate a maximum five-day workweek to standardise practices and enforce stringent regulations against overwork, ensuring employees are not coerced into extended hours. Flexible work policies, such as remote work and part-time options, should be encouraged to cater to diverse employee needs. Mental health support programmes, including counselling services and stress management workshops, should be made mandatory in workplaces. Furthermore, organisations that implement progressive work-life balance policies should be rewarded with tax benefits or public recognition, incentivising others to follow suit.

Today, as debates around extended workweeks resurface, it is essential to reaffirm the principles of work-life balance which is not just a moral imperative but a practical necessity for sustainable development. Balanced work environments enhance productivity, attract and retain talent, and promote mental health. Research conducted by Stanford University revealed that productivity per hour declines sharply when the workweek exceeds 50 hours, with virtually no productivity gains beyond 55 hours. Thus, governments and corporations must create environments where employees thrive without compromising their health and personal lives. The future of work must prioritise quality over quantity, ensuring that progress does not come at the cost of humanity. Achieving this balance is not just a need of the hour but a responsibility toward the workforce that drives the global economy. *The writer is a service union representative and a columnist.*

SPECTRUM ECONOMY

Wage growth vital for consumption boost

Unlike his predecessor late Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks volumes about his government's plans, achievements and future targets. While the economy is suffering from food inflation and economists seek a boost to consumption expenditure, lagging for months, Modi recently referred to a State Bank of India survey which reportedly showed urban-rural gap in the monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MCPE) having declined to 70% in 2023-24 from 84% in 2011-12.

This reduction does not, in any way, show that rural incomes have increased, and consumption has shown an uptrend. On the other hand, it can be said that urban incomes may not have increased. Moreover, the real picture will come out if the average incomes of the lower segments of both urban and rural areas – say 40% of the total – are considered. This is necessary to reveal the distressing scenario in rural sector and plan accordingly and allocate funds realistically.

The survey showed that MCPE in rural India increased

from Rs 1430 in 2011-12 to Rs 4122 in 2023-24 without taking into account the inflationary increase in these 10 years. Here too there's need to segregate the incomes of the economically weaker sections to find out whether their incomes have truly increased. There is no need to rejoice at the slight increase in MPCE for a country aspiring to reach a developed status. Even FMCG companies are talking about sales remaining stagnant for a few years. All this is obviously because incomes have not increased. Let us take the example of midday meal cooks, whose salaries have remained unchanged at Rs 1000 per month since fixed way back in 2009. Adjusted for inflation, the value of this amount comes to a mere Rs 540 per month. The actual money they get depends on how much the state government is willing to enhance. While Kerala pays the highest at Rs 12,000, in many others such as Delhi, Goa and some north-eastern states it remains Rs 1000. In the private sector, due to the critical job scenario, there is an insignificant annual increase in wages, which is more or less, or even lower if infla-

tion is considered. Even in the education sector, both in urban and rural areas, highly qualified teachers in private schools and colleges get 40% less than their counterparts in government educational institutions. A doctorate friend of this writer in Kolkata gets around Rs 40,000 in a private college after serving for over 12 years, which would have doubled had she served in a government college. It is pertinent to refer to the recently released job plan of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which suggested a seven-point agenda, including an integrated national employment policy, support to labour-intensive sectors and setting up an international mobility authority. This authority could work with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to help develop various types of skills, not just technical. These may be worth considering in a situation where job creation is the crying need of the day. Also, the proposal of trade unions to increase the minimum EPFO pension to Rs 5000 per month needs to be seriously considered. All these efforts could lead

to consumption expenditure increase steadily. Thus, the obvious thrust in the forthcoming Budget should be on ensuring that incomes and wages of the unorganised sector are increased while budgetary grant for the MGNREGS is adequate to provide at least 100 days a year, if not more employment. Some economists have been talking of a similar scheme in the urban sector and the government may think of starting such a scheme for at least 60-70 days for the urban unemployed.

Given that around 60% of India's total income has been going to the top 10-12% with the bottom 50% getting a little over 10%, this needs to change. In this scenario, the increase in standard deduction, currently pegged at Rs 75,000 per annum for salaried individuals and pensioners being envisaged may not help much. Also reducing the tax structure to help a section of the middle class may not witness consumption growth. The requirement for much-needed consumption boost is to ensure increasing wages and incomes of the rural populace and the lower segments of the population in cities. **INFA**

Letters

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

Oligarchs everywhere

Sir, This refers to "Oligarchy in making," **Orissa POST**, Jan 22. Former US President Joe Biden used his farewell speech to the nation chose to deliver a message: that a nation which has always revered its entrepreneurs may now be at their mercy. He named no names, but his targets were clear: men like Elon Musk -- the world's richest person -- who surround incoming Republican president Trump. There's no disputing the fact that America's uber-wealthy and fantastically ambitious tycoons are swarming around Trump. But the presence of the super-rich in politics is neither new nor confined to the US. And, it is not fair to compare Musk to the oligarchs of authoritarian regimes. Although the likes of Andrew Carnegie and JP Morgan wielded enormous influence over US democracy, they also created untold wealth for the economy, leaving legacies ranging from soaring public buildings to entire industries. Meanwhile, iron-bound Trump-Musk partnership may contain two fatal flaws. First, both have a huge ego and the chances of friction being generated in the long run are high. Secondly, something deeper: Trump's electoral base wants less immigration and more isolationism, while Musk and the "tech industrial complex" have global -- even inter-planetary -- visions. One of the most interesting questions of this new administration will be to see whether or not this coexistence will endure. **N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE**

National interest first

Sir, Donald Trump's inaugural address, with its "America First" emphasis, offers both opportunities and challenges for India. The focus on self-reliance and economic revival highlights the importance of boosting domestic manufacturing, innovation, and infrastructure, aligning with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. India can also learn from the emphasis on job creation and putting citizens' interests at the core of governance. However, the protectionist undertone poses challenges. Stricter trade policies could impact India's exports and outsourcing industries, especially in IT and services. Immigration curbs might affect Indian professionals seeking opportunities in the US. India must balance inspiration with caution, while prioritising national interests. **Gopalaswamy J, CHENNAI**

Kashmir chinar trees get digital protection



REUTERS

Srinagar, India, Jan 22: Authorities in Kashmir are geo-tagging thousands of 'Chinar' trees to create a comprehensive database for their management and help conserve them amid threats from rising urbanisation, road-widening projects and diseases. The trees are a cultural and ecological symbol of the restive northern territory, which is claimed in full by India and Pakistan and ruled in part by both, but hundreds of them have been lost over the

last few decades. Under the geo-tagging process, QR codes are attached to each surveyed tree, recording information about 25 characteristics, including its geographical location, health, age, and growing patterns, enabling conservationists to track changes and address risk factors. The public can also scan the code to access the details, Syed Tariq, the head of the project, told Reuters. "We have geo-tagged nearly 29,000 trees, but we still have more small-sized trees that haven't been tagged... These will be

tagged in due course," Tariq said. The Chinar trees take around 150 years to reach their full size of up to 30 metres (100 ft) in height with a girth of 10 to 15 metres (30 to 50 ft) at ground level. The oldest Chinar in the region lies on the outskirts of the city of Srinagar and is around 650 years old. "We are using a USG-based (ultrasonography-based) gadget capable of determining risk levels without human intervention. The gadget will assess risk factors, eliminating the need for manual evaluation," Tariq said. The portion of Kashmir under India's control was roiled by violence for decades as militants fought security forces, but the conflict has eased in recent years, leading to a gradual rise in development projects and tourism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kashmir last week to inaugurate a tunnel and, during the event, said that numerous road and rail connectivity projects in the region would be completed in the coming days.

STA to meet after 30 months

The STA is mandated to conduct at least two meetings in a year under section 60 of the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rule 1989. However, it didn't meet even once since October 2021



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 22: The State Transport Authority (STA) in Maharashtra will meet after a long hiatus of 30 months Thursday and may approve the MSRTC's proposal to hike the passenger fare by 14 to 15 per cent, officials said. The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation had sought the hike in fare under an automatic fare revision formula (AFRF) to mitigate the daily loss of ₹2 to 3 crore. This proposal was sent to STA for approval last year. Buses operated by MSRTC travel across the length and breadth of Maharashtra with over 55 lakh passengers travelling daily. The 15,000-bus fleet

being operated by MSRTC is considered the largest in India. An official said Wednesday that the STA, chaired by the state transport secretary, had approved a 17.17 per cent fare hike for MSRTC-operated buses under the AFRF in its last meeting in 2022, following which the existing fare structure came into force October 26 that year. The STA is mandated to conduct at least two meetings in a year under section 60 of the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Rule 1989. However, it didn't meet even once since October 2021. The then transport secretary Ashish Kumar Singh chaired the 275th meeting of STA October 27, 2021. The incumbent Transport Secretary, who took charge

Union Minister inaugurates Nora bridge in Kathua

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kathua/Jammu, Jan 22: Union Minister Jitendra Singh Wednesday inaugurated the vital Nora bridge along Lakhampur-Thein road in Basohli area of Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district. The 191-metre long double-lane bridge, constructed at a cost of over ₹16.46 crore, meets a long-pending demand of the public who will no longer have to face inconvenience while travelling from Bani to Basohli, the minister of state in the Prime Minister's Office said. Singh, who represents Udhampur parliamentary constituency which also includes Kathua, said nine underpasses are now to be constructed on the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Express corridor for the convenience of the public. "This demand had been met four days ago," he said, adding that the plans are on the anvil to turn Kathua into a major hub of trade and tourism. Singh said the other notable achievements in Kathua include completion of long pending Juthana bridge, beginning of first session of Centrally funded North India's first Homeopathic College, approval of Chattergala project, decision to shift Industrial Biotech Park to PPP model, completion of last phase of Shahpur Kandi project.

Cold conditions intensify in Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Srinagar, Jan 22: The minimum temperature dipped in Kashmir Wednesday, a day after snowfall in a few higher reaches but settled above the freezing point at most places, officials said. The tourist resorts of Gulmarg and Sonamarg, the Zojila axis on the Srinagar-Leh national highway and a few other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir, received overnight snowfall Tuesday. After the snowfall, the night temperatures decreased in the valley.



The minimum temperature in Srinagar settled at 0.6 degree Celsius Tuesday night, compared to the previous night's 1 degree Celsius, the meteorological department said. Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the annual Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 4.2 degrees Celsius, two degrees down from the night

before. The tourist resort of Gulmarg in north Kashmir, known for skiing, recorded a minimum temperature of minus 8.5 degrees Celsius, down from minus 3.2 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature was 1.6 degrees Celsius in Qazigund, 0.6 degrees Celsius at Konibal in Pampore town, 0.8 degrees Celsius in Kupwara and 1.2 degrees Celsius in Kokernag. The meteorological department has forecast a possibility of light rain or snow at scattered places Wednesday, while it said there is a possibility of very light rain or light snow at isolated places the day after.

80-year-old woman reunited with family after 3 decades

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Thane, Jan 22: An 80-year-old woman, who went missing from her home in Maharashtra's Ahmednagar district 30 years ago, has been reunited with her family, thanks to efforts made by staff at the Thane Mental Hospital, an official said Wednesday. Three decades ago, the woman's 13-year-old son tragically died due to an electric shock after climbing a tamarind tree. Overcome with grief and unable to cope up with the loss, the woman left her home in a distressed state and went missing, Thane Mental Hospital's superintendent Dr Netaji Mulik said. The woman later reached Nashik, where she wandered in the Panchvati locality for years. Two years ago, the Nashik police found her in a deteriorated physical and mental condition. After realising that she had a memory loss, they shifted her to the Thane Mental Hospital for care and treatment,

the official said. At the hospital, the medical team provided her a comprehensive treatment. Once she showed signs of improvement, the team began working to establish her identity and locate her family. The process was challenging as the woman's recollections of her past were vague and fragmented, Dr Mulik said. Despite not much success initially, the hospital staff gradually pieced together clues about her hometown, contacted the police in Ahmednagar, located about 250 km from here, and traced her relatives there, he said. After receiving information, the woman's family members, including her daughter-in-law, cousins and nephews, visited the hospital here January 17 and met her for the first time in 30 years. "We are deeply touched by the extraordinary care and dedication of the medical team," a family member said. The family has taken the woman back to Ahmednagar.

Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice
E-Mail: rw_boudh@yahoo.co.in
Bid Identification No. Online tender/13/S.E.RW BOUDH/2024-25

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the work : Road works - 2 Nos
1. Estimated cost : Rs. 9.79 lakhs to 12.09 (approximately)
2. Period of completion : 01 (One) Calendar month
3. Date & Time of availability of : From 27.01.2025 10.00 A.M. to
Bid documents in the portal : 03.02.2025, 5.00 P.M.
4. Last date / Time for receipt : 03.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
of bids in the portal
5. Last date / Time for seeking : 02.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
of Tender clarification
6. Date & Time of opening of : 04.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
Tender / Bid
7. Name & Address of the : Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division,
officer inviting Bid Boudh

Further details, corrigendum (s) etc can be seen from the e-procurement portal "https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Boudh

OIPR-25061/11/0015/2425

OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, KODALA
Odisha, Pin-761032, e-Mail: nackodala@gmail.com
Lt.No.102/Dev/2025 Dated:- 22.01.2025

e-NOTICE

BID IDENTIFICATION No. KOD-NAC-02/2025-26

No.C-1531: On behalf of the Kodala NAC, on-line e-Tender Percentage Rate Bids in two bid system (Part-I-General & Technical Bid and Part-II Price Bid or Financial Bid) invited by the Executive Officer, Kodala NAC from the intending and eligible class/category of bidders in conformity with the Detailed Tender Call Notice for execution or the works mentioned in the DTCN. Contractor, validly registered/empanelled under Kodala NAC are also eligible to participate for the works.

1. Name of the Work : Civil Works
2. Number of Works : 01 No.
3. Estimated Cost : As per DTCN
4. Period of Completion : As per DTCN
5. Date and Time of availability : From 10.00 AM of Dt.24.01.2025
of Bid document in the Portal : to 5.00 PM of Dt.12.02.2025
6. Last date and time for receipt : 5.00 PM of Dt.12.02.2025
of Bid in the Portal
7. The bid received online shall be opened on 11.00 AM of dt. 14.02.2025
8. Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid: Executive Officer, NAC, Kodala.
Further details can be seen from the Procurement Portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd./- Executive Officer, Kodala NAC
OIPR-13203/11/0023/2425

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: ANANDAPUR
At/Po- Anandapur, Pin Code-758021, Odisha
E-mail ID-executiveofficer_andp@rediffmail.com
No.325 Date- 21.01.2025

CORRIGENDUM

No.C-1527: In reference to the Quotation Call Notice No-84, Dated- 07.01.2025 the tender has been extend upto Dt.31.01.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. instead of Dt.24.01.2025 and the quotation will be opened on the same date 02.02.2025 at 4.30 PM.

Sd./-Executive Officer, Anandapur Municipality
OIPR-13049/11/0013/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER ANGUL MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, DHENKANAL
No.47 Date: 21.01.2025

1st CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO-NCB-02/DRIP-AMIC/2024-25

No.A-930: The Following modifications are made in respect of the Tender Call Notice No. NCB-02/DRIP-AMIC/2024-25 due to some unavoidable circumstances.

1. The Tender Call Notice No-NCB-02/DRIP-AMIC/2024-25 will be available for online bidding from dated 24.01.2025 at 10.30 A.M. to 23.02.2025 upto 15.00 Hours instead of dated 15.01.2025 at 10.30 A.M. to dated 13.02.2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 2. The time and date of Pre-Bid meeting will be conducted on dated 10.02.2025 upto 15.00 Hours instead of dated 31.01.2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 3. The last date & time for receipt of bids will be dated 23.02.2025 upto 15.00 Hours instead of dated 13.02.2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 4. The time and date of opening of bids (Technical Part) will be on dated 24.02.2025 at 16.00 Hours instead of dated 14.02.2025 at 16.00 Hours
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd./- Additional Chief Engineer
OIPR-32522/11/0004/2425 Angul M.I. Circle, Dhenkanal

See Career Appointment on every Wednesday & Saturday

ପଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମିତି କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ପୁରୁଷୋତ୍ତମପୁର, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ
Sri Manoj Kumar Nayak, OASI, JB
Email ID : oripurussottampur@nic.in
bdoppur@gmail.com
Telephone No. : 0680-275323

OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, PURUSHOTTAMPUR

Letter No. 372/Dev Date : 20.01.2025
DETAILTENDER CALL NOTICE- 02/2024-25 OF BDO PURUSHOTTAMPUR

The Block Development Officer, Purushottampur invites sealed percentage rate tenders in single cover system on behalf of Governor of Odisha from registered eligible class of civil contractor of the state PWD(R&B)/Water Resource/Rural Works/M.I./C.P.W.D. for the following works eventually to be drawn up in the PWD-F-2 form in conformity with the detail tender call notice.

| SI No. | Name of the work | Value of Work (In Rs.) | Bid Security @ 1% (In Rs.) | Cost of bid Document (In Rs.) | Class of Bidder | Period of Completion |
|--------|--|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1 | Construction of GPLF Building with Market Complex at Pandia | 2378723.00 | 23787.00 | Rs. 6,000.00/- (Rupees Six Thousand) | Class - 'B' & 'C' | 6 (Six) Calendar Months |
| 2 | Construction of GPLF Building with Market Complex at Pratapur | 2378723.00 | 23787.00 | Rs. 6,000.00/- (Rupees Six Thousand) | Class - 'B' & 'C' | 6 (Six) Calendar Months |
| 3 | Construction of GPLF Building with Market Complex at Bhutasarasinghi | 2378723.00 | 23787.00 | Rs. 6,000.00/- (Rupees Six Thousand) | Class - 'B' & 'C' | 6 (Six) Calendar Months |
| 4 | Construction of GPLF Building with Market Complex at Arakhapur | 2378723.00 | 23787.00 | Rs. 6,000.00/- (Rupees Six Thousand) | Class - 'B' & 'C' | 6 (Six) Calendar Months |
| 5 | Construction of GPLF Building with Market Complex at Solaghar | 2378723.00 | 23787.00 | Rs. 6,000.00/- (Rupees Six Thousand) | Class - 'B' & 'C' | 6 (Six) Calendar Months |
| 6 | Construction of GPLF Building with Market Complex at Raipur | 2378723.00 | 23787.00 | Rs. 6,000.00/- (Rupees Six Thousand) | Class - 'B' & 'C' | 6 (Six) Calendar Months |

Term & Conditions :

1. **Cost of Tender paper :** The tenders specification can be obtained from the office of the Block Development Officer, Purushottampur on payment towards the cost of tender paper as mentioned above. (Non-Refundable) in shape of bank draft or Demand draft (No other modes will be entertained) drawn in favour of Block Development Officer, Purushottampur in any nationalized bank having its branch at Purushottampur block area on any working day from 20.01.2025 to 10.02.2025 for the above works.

2. **Sale of Tender Papers :** The tender document will be sold from 20.01.2025 to 11.02.2025 at Block Office, Purushottampur between 10:30 AM to 5:30 P.M. on working days.

3. **Date of receipt & Mode of submission of tender papers :** The bidders have to submit the sealed tender papers in complete shape through Registered Post/Speed Post/Tender Box (Available at Block Office) to by directly sending it to the Block Development Officer, Purushottampur. The last date of receipt of tender paper 10.02.2025 up to 05:30 P.M. The undersigned will not be responsible for postal delay if any or non receipt of papers in time. **The tender must superscribe the name of the work/project on the sealed envelope.**

4. **Date of opening of tender papers :** The tender paper shall be opened on 12.02.2025 at 11:00 A.M. in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives having written authorization for the purpose & the members of the tender committee.

5. **Earnest Money Deposit :** 1 % (One Percent) of the bid value in shape of NSC/ Postal saving pass book / Post Office TiDeposit / Kishan Vikash Patra/Deposit receipt in schedule bank only, duly pledged in favour of Block Development Officer, Purushottampur. The tender papers without required amount of E.M.D. will not be considered & transfer or adjustment of E.M.D is also inadmissible.

6. **Documents to be attached :** The following document should be furnished with the tender papers failing which the tender will be liable to rejection.
(a) E.M.D. pledged in favour of the Block Development Officer, Purushottampur.
(b) Attested copy of contractor registration certificate.
(c) Attested copy of PAN Card & Certificate of GSTIN.
(d) Original money receipt/Demand Draft granted by BDO, Purushottampur towards cost of tender paper.
(e) Attested copy of Caste certificate issued by competent authority in case of SC/ST Contractor desirous of availing preference.
(f) The bidders have to produce an original affidavit in support of the authenticity of documents including EMD, etc attached with the tender papers.
(g) Affidavit as regards the facts of availing award of the work without submission of EMD/ISD during the current financial year in case of Engineer contractors desirous of availing exemption of EMD, otherwise their tender paper will be liable for rejection.
(h) Joint venture consortium agreements are not allowed to participate in tender.
(i) Shortfall of any required document(s) & EMD, the tender paper will be liable for rejection.
(j) **Additional Performance Security Deposit :** The affidavit in lieu of APS will be submitted by the successful bidder for the cost of less quoted percentage of the amount put to tender before the signing of the agreement of the contract. (Vide Works Department letter No-4559 date-05.04.2021, Govt. of Odisha, Works Department)

9. **Forfeiture :** The EMD amount will be forfeited, if the bidders backs out from the offer acceptance of tender, by the competent authority.

10. Submission of more than one tender paper by a bidder for a single work will be liable for rejection of all such tender papers.

11. The Block Development Officer, Purushottampur reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof. Other details can be seen in the bidding document.

Sd./- Block Dev. Officer, Purushottampur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, DEO CANAL DIVISION, KARANJIA
AT/PO - KARANJIA, DIST : MAYURBHANJ - 757037, Tel : 06796-220124, e-mail : eedcd2016@gmail.com

"e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. : 01/SEDCD of 2024-25 (Online)

Name of Work : As per Detailed Tender Call Notice, Total No. of Packages : 01 (Nine) Nos. of Individual Work, Estimated cost of Package : 89.80 Lakhs, Period of Completion : 03 (Three) Months, Class of Contractor : B-Class Contractor, Other Details :

| Procurement Officer | Bid Identification No. | Availability of tender on-line for bidding | |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| | | From | To |
| Superintending Engineer, Deo Canal Division, Karanjia | 01/SEDCD of 2024-25 | 24.01.2025 at 10.00 A.M. | 07.02.2025 up to 05.30 P.M. |

Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Any addendum/corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said Website.

Sd./- Superintending Engineer
Deo Canal Division, Karanjia
OIPR-32380/11/0001/2425

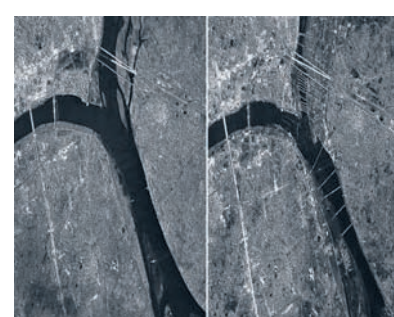


The government's general policy is to continue such captive generation units. There is no dispute about it

PINARAYI VIJAYAN | KERALA CM

ISRO RELEASES SATELLITE IMAGES OF MAHA KUMBH

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Wednesday released before and after satellite images of the tent city here giving an insight into the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh which is drawing crores of people from across the world to take a holy dip at the Sangam



of the day quote

It was the AIADMK government that made Tamil Nadu, which was a revenue-surplus state in 2011, a revenue-deficit one in 2013

M K STALIN | TN CM

The news of three Mantralayam Vedic school students dying in a road accident in Karnataka has devastated and immensely grieved me. I directed officials to ensure medical help for them (students), who were on their way to Hampi in the neighbouring state

N CHANDRABABU NAIDU | AP CM

I heard that the train (to Kashmir) will face a two-month delay due to some incomplete works. Those works are being attended to and they will start the train in April with the onset of the tourism season

FAROOQ ABDULLAH | NC PRESIDENT

SHORT TAKES

Gariaband encounter: Death toll reaches 16

Gariaband (Chhattisgarh): The bodies of two more Naxalites were recovered in Chhattisgarh's Gariaband district, where an encounter took place recently between the security forces and Maoists, police said Wednesday. With this, the number of Naxalites killed during the operation has risen to 16, they said. "The bodies of two more Naxalites were recovered Wednesday during a search of the encounter site," a police official said. With this, the toll of Naxalites killed in the operation rose to 16, he said.

Top court slams Assam govt

New Delhi: Calling it a "defective" affidavit, the Supreme Court Wednesday slammed the Assam government for not giving in its reply reasons for detaining 270 foreigners at the Matia transit camp. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh directed the Assam chief secretary to remain present through video-conferencing on the next date of hearing. The top court said it granted six weeks time to the state government December 9 to file the affidavit and expected it to give reasons for detaining 270 foreign nationals in the transit camp besides details on the steps taken for their deportation.

7 held for planning to rob company

Gurugram: A crime branch team of the Gurugram Police have arrested seven accused for allegedly planning to commit a robbery in a company, police said. The police have recovered 01 pistol, 01 live cartridge, 01 motorcycle, 01 auto rickshaw, 01 hammer, 01 iron cutting blade and various other tools from the possession of the accused.

Minor raped in grocery shop

Kolkata: Tension erupted in Suri, the district headquarters of Birbhum in West Bengal, Wednesday, over the alleged rape of a minor girl within a locked grocery shop by the owner. The accused grocery shop owner Pradip Kirtaniya is absconding. It is learnt that a woman residing opposite the grocery shop in Hatjon, a retail market cum residential area in Suri, noticed the minor girl coming to the shop to purchase something on Tuesday night and also saw the accused owner taking her inside the shop.

RG KAR HORROR CBI SEEKS DEATH FOR SANJAY ROY IN HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: The CBI filed an appeal Wednesday before the Calcutta High Court, seeking death sentence for Sanjay Roy, who was sentenced to "life imprisonment until death" by a Sealadah court in the rape-murder case of an on-duty doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said. The agency made the move after receiving a legal advice that the brutal rape and murder of the 31-year-old trainee doctor comes under the "rarest of rare" category deserving capital punishment, they said.

Highly placed officials said the CBI was unanimous that the case deserves nothing but death penalty, seeing the manner in which the doctor was killed in her medical college. The CBI's plea seeking death penalty for Roy was turned down by the trial court, where Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das said the crime did not fall under the "rarest of rare" category.

"The CBI prayed for the death penalty. The defence lawyer prayed that a jail term be given instead of the death penalty. This crime does not fall under the 'rarest of the rare' category," the judge said on Monday while sentencing Roy. "I am sentencing you to life imprisonment, meaning till the last day of your life, for causing injury during the act of committing rape on the victim that led to her death..." he told Roy.

The West Bengal government has already approached the high court, challenging the verdict and seeking death penalty for Roy, which took up the matter Wednesday but did not decide on the appeal. The high court said it would hear the CBI, the victim's family and the convict before deciding on the admission of an appeal filed by the West Bengal government claiming inadequacy of sentence given by a trial court in the RG Kar hospital rape-murder case. The high court said it will hear the matter January 27. The CBI opposed the state's right to file an appeal in the case, claiming that as it was the prosecuting agency, it had the right to prefer the appeal on the grounds of inadequacy of the sentence.



HC to hear case Jan 27

KOLKATA: The Calcutta High Court Wednesday said it would hear the CBI, the victim's family and the convict before deciding on the admission of an appeal filed by the West Bengal government claiming inadequacy of sentence given by a trial court in the RG Kar hospital rape-murder case. The high court said it will hear the matter January 27. The CBI opposed the state's right to file an appeal in the case, claiming that as it was the prosecuting agency, it had the right to prefer the appeal on the grounds of inadequacy of the sentence.

Within hours of proceedings in the high court, the CBI went ahead and filed the appeal against the order of the Sealadah court and demanded enhancement of "life imprisonment until death" sentence awarded to Roy on the ground that it was a "rarest of rare" case. The trainee doctor was raped and killed in the early hours of August 9 in the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital when she had gone to have rest during her graveyard shift.

14 KILLED IN TWO SEPARATE ACCIDENTS IN KARNATAKA



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Yellapura/Raichur (Karnataka), Jan 22: As many as fourteen people were killed and at least 15 were injured in two separate road accidents occurred in Uttara Kannada and Raichur districts Wednesday.

Condoling the tragic incident, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the families would be paid compensation.

"It's heartbreaking to hear the news that 14 people died in two separate accidents in Yellapur in Uttara Kannada district and Sindhanur in Raichur district. I pray for the souls of the deceased to rest in peace," Siddaramaiah said in a statement. "The families of

the deceased will be provided appropriate compensation by the government," he added.

In Yellapura incident, a truck carrying 29 fruit sellers fell into a 50-metre-deep Valley near here in the wee hours of Wednesday, police said.

The victims from Savanur in Haveri district, were heading towards the Yellapura fair to sell fruits. The accident occurred in a forested section, the Uttara Kannada Superintendent of Police M Narayana said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah too condoled the tragic death of 10 people in Yellapura.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives in the accident in the Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka. Condolences to those who lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is assisting those affected. An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased.

5 sentenced to death for gangrape-murder of girl

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Korba, Jan 22: A court in Chhattisgarh has sentenced five men to death for the gangrape-murder of a 16-year-old girl and the killing of her two family members in 2021, holding that the crime has shocked the collective conscience of society.

The Fast Track Special Court in Korba district sentenced to death Santram Manjhwari (49), Abdul Jabbar (34), Anil Kumar Sarthi (24), Pardeshi Ram (39) and Anand Ram Panika (29) and handed a life sentence to the six accused, Umashanakar Yadav (26).

While delivering the judgement January 15, Additional Sessions Judge Mamta Bhojwani held that this inhuman and cruel act of the accused is extremely perverted, heinous, brutal and cowardly, said special public prosecutor Sunil Kumar Mishra Wednesday. A copy of the order was made available Monday.

Those given the death penalty were convicted under sections 302 (murder), 376 (2)(G) (gangrape) and other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and provisions of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

In 2021, the teenage girl was allegedly gang-raped and bludgeoned with stones before she was dumped in a forest leading to her death near Gadhpur station area of Korba district.

According to police, the deceased man, a resident of Barpani village, had been working as a cattle grazer at the house of prime accused Manjhwari since July 2020.

Cong accuses Kejriwal, AAP in ₹382cr scam



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Congress leader Ajay Maken Wednesday alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party government committed a corruption of ₹382 crore in the healthcare sector.

During a press conference here, Maken said that they used to make allegations against the Congress government on the basis of CAG reports.

At present, 14 CAG reports are showing serious corruption charges against the AAP government.

"Kejriwal came to power in the name of eradicating corruption but never allowed the 14 CAG reports of his and his government's corruption to be made public on the floor of the Vidhan Sabha. Today, we are exposing one of the 14 reports of his corruption in the health sector in front of the people of Delhi," he claimed.

Citing a CAG report, Maken further claimed that he found that there was a scam of ₹382 crore against former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. AAP claimed that they would complete their work before time and

also save money. But the CAG report states that only three new hospitals were built in the past 10 years, Maken said.

All three hospitals started during the time of the Congress government. The delay of Indira Gandhi Hospital was five years, Burari Hospital was delayed by six years and Maulana Azad Dental Hospital was delayed by three years.

"Apart from this, there was a total of ₹314.9 crore extra spent on Indira Gandhi Hospital over the tender amount. An amount of ₹41.26 crore extra was spent on Burari Hospital and ₹26.36 crore on the Maulana Azad Dental Hospital. A total of ₹382.52 crore was spent extra from the tendered amount. I am not saying this, the CAG report is saying this," Maken said.

According to the CAG, a total of 15 plots were acquired by the Delhi government between 2007 and 2015 on which hospitals and dispensaries were to be built, but no work was started. From 2016-17 to 2021-22, ₹2,623 crore lapsed out of the money sanctioned for infrastructure projects, Maken said.

Govt raises raw jute MSP by 6 pc to ₹5,650/ quintal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: The Union Cabinet Wednesday approved a minimum support price of ₹5,650 per quintal for raw jute for marketing season 2025-26, an increase of 6 per cent or ₹315 over the previous MSP.

The decision was taken at the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, informed Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. The new Minimum Support Prices (MSP) ensure return of 66.8 per cent over all-India weighted average cost of production and will benefit growers, the minister said.

The government has increased MSP of raw jute from ₹2,400 per quintal in 2014-15 to ₹5,650 per quintal for 2025-26 marketing season, an increase of 2.35 times. The approved MSP of raw jute for Marketing season 2025-26 is in line with the principle of fixing MSP at a level of at least 1.5 times all India weighted average cost of production as announced by the Government in the Budget 2018-19, an official release said.

It is to be noted here that livelihood of 40 lakh farm families directly or indirectly depends on jute industry. About 4 lakh workers get direct employment in jute mills and trade in jute. Last year jute was procured from 1.7 lakh farmers. Eighty-two per cent of jute farmers belong to West Bengal while Assam and Bihar have 9 per cent each of jute production share.

The release said Jute Corporation of India (JCI) will continue as Central Government Nodal Agency to undertake Price Support Operations and the losses incurred, if any, in such operations, will be fully reimbursed by the central government.



Tourists pose for pictures at the Taj Mahal in Agra, Uttar Pradesh

PTI PHOTO

Centre to expand network of stroke units across country

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Around 500 stroke units are operational across the country and the Centre is committed to expanding this network to ensure wider access to specialised care, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava said Wednesday.

"Recognising the critical importance of prevention, we have prioritised primary prevention strategies within our national health programs," she said while addressing the National Stroke Summit 2025 organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). Stroke prevention remains a critical priority as India addresses the dual challenge of communicable and non-communicable diseases, she said. While significant strides have been made in controlling communicable diseases, non-communicable dis-



eases (NCDs) now account for 74 per cent of global mortality and 66 per cent of deaths in India, Srivastava said.

"Stroke, often caused by conditions like diabetes and hypertension, is largely preventable," she said. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has undertaken pivotal studies to establish stroke care pathways, specialised units, and mobile

stroke units. Moreover, the government is fully committed to addressing the growing burden of NCDs by implementing

a comprehensive hub-and-spoke model for stroke care, ensuring optimised resource allocation and equitable access to specialised treatments and rehabilitation services nationwide, she said. "With nearly 500 stroke care units

operational, our focus remains on expanding this network to further enhance accessibility and improve patient outcomes by the next financial year," Srivastava said.

"Ayushman Bharat, our flagship universal health coverage scheme, not only provides financial protection for stroke care but also plays a pivotal role in addressing risk factors. Our Ayushman Arogya Mandir are at the forefront of health promotion, focusing on early identification and management of risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, unhealthy diets, and physical inactivity," she said.

These centres are integral to the National Programme for Prevention and Control of non-communicable diseases, Srivastava stated. A study recently published in the International Journal of Stroke had said that ischaemic stroke is the most common, accounting for about 70-80 per cent of all strokes in India.

An ischaemic stroke is caused when a blood clot affects supply to the brain. Researchers, including those from the US' Ascension Health and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Hyderabad, found that a total of 566 stroke centres equipped with the 'intravenous thrombolysis' method of treatment (which breaks up blood clots) were spread across 26 states and union territories, the study had said. Of the 566, over 60 per cent (361) were found to be also equipped with endovascular therapy for stroke patients, considered superior.



We have a fundamental right in the country, and the right is we can access judiciary. It's a fundamental right but in the last few decades access to judiciary has been weaponised... it is posing a great challenge to our governance, our democratic values

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR | VICE PRESIDENT

NO INTERIM BAIL FOR TAHIR HUSSAIN

Former councillor and February 2020 riots accused Tahir Hussain Wednesday failed to secure an interim bail to campaign for Delhi assembly polls after a Supreme Court bench gave a split verdict



Mysterious illness in J&K: 4 more hospitalised

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Rajouri/Jammu, Jan 22: Four people, including three sisters, have been shifted to hospitals from Badhaal village in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district where a mysterious illness has claimed 17 lives over the past one-and-a-half months.

A central team continued its investigation into the cause of the deaths, which took place in three families, Wednesday. A senior doctor part of the investigations said over 200 samples have been sent for testing to different institutes. Three sisters, aged between 16 and 22, were shifted to the Government Medical College (GMC), Rajouri from Badhaal after their health suddenly deteriorated Wednesday. Another critically ill patient, Javid Ahmad (24), was referred to PGI Chandigarh from GMC Rajouri Tuesday evening, the officials said.

All four are close relatives of the three families that lost their members to the mysterious illness, they said. Meanwhile, the inter-ministerial team from New Delhi visited Badhaal in Kotranka sub-division for the third straight day as part of its investigation, the officials said. The team headed by a director-rank officer in the Ministry of Home Affairs reached Rajouri district headquarters Sunday evening and was briefed by senior district, health and police officers. It is camping in Rajouri town. Senior epidemiologist and head of Community Medicines Department, GMC Rajouri, Shuja Qadri said all the investigations so far make it clear that the deaths in the village were not the result of any communicable disease.

UP Cabinet meets at MahaKumbh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mahakumbh Nagar, Jan 22: The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet met in the MahaKumbh Mela area Wednesday following which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced several key decisions on development projects and policy changes aimed at boosting the state's growth.

Addressing the media, the Chief Minister highlighted the wide range of topics discussed at the meeting, including policy matters on incentives in aerospace and defence sectors, and infrastructure development and specific issues related to Prayagraj.

He also announced construction of three new medical colleges in Baghpat, Hathras and Kasganj districts. One of the major announcements was related to the state's aerospace and defence policies, which, he said, was initially implemented in 2018, has completed five years and will now be revamped.

"The revised policy will include new incentives to attract large investments into the sector," Adityanath said.

The cabinet meeting comes on a day that also marked the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ram temple in Ayodhya and ahead of the February 5 Milkipur hypoll.

Subhas Chandra Bose: A legacy that inspires generations



Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

On the occasion of Parakram Diwas, marking the 128th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, we honour his immense contributions to India's freedom struggle and his indomitable spirit that continues to inspire the youth of today. Instituted to celebrate the life and ideals of this visionary leader, Parakram Diwas serves as a moment to reflect on how we can integrate his principles into our personal and national aspirations.

This day serves not only as a reminder of his sacrifices but as a call to action, urging us to channel his principles of courage, integrity, and leadership to build a prosperous, self-reliant nation.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Netaji's contributions have been celebrated and institutionalized like never before. In 2021, the government designated January 23 as Parakram Diwas, ensuring annual nationwide celebrations to honour Netaji's legacy.

The unveiling of the Netaji statue at India Gate under the Kartavya Path redevelopment project was a landmark tribute to his vision. PM Modi declared this gesture as a symbol of "resurgence of Indian pride and culture," aligning with Bose's ideals of nationalism.

Further, the declassification of 304 Netaji files was a historic move, ending decades of speculation and giving the public access to vital records on his life and work.

Additionally, the revival of the INA Memorial in Moirang, Manipur, where the Indian National Army first hoisted the tricolor, reflects the government's commitment to preserving Netaji's legacy. Hon'ble PM Modi also highlighted Bose's global impact, stating, "Netaji's life was dedicated to the cause of freedom, and he envisioned India that would be self-reliant

and confident."

Born into a respected family in Cuttack, Subhas Bose was a brilliant student. He excelled in his academics across stints at Ravenshaw Collegiate School in Cuttack, Presidency College in Calcutta and the Indian Civil Services (ICS) exam. Yet, driven by a deep sense of patriotism and a desire to serve his country, he chose to resign from the ICS, turning down the comforts of a promising career. Later, he launched a newspaper titled 'Swaraj' in 1921 to evoke patriotism and spread the word on freedom among Bhartiya population.

Netaji's vision for a free India was not merely a dream but a call to action. When he escaped from house arrest in 1941 and sought international support, it wasn't just a strategic move—it was a bold assertion of determination, resilience, and the will to take unconventional paths when required.

He famously declared, "Give me blood and I promise you freedom," embodying his belief that true freedom required not just words but deeds. Whether it was through the creation of the Indian National Army (INA) or his speeches on Azad

Hind Radio, Bose demonstrated that achieving independence demanded collective effort, sacrifice and the willingness to contribute to the larger vision of progress.

Former British PM Clement Attlee in a statement cited several reasons for the British leaving India, "the principal among them being the erosion of loyalty to the British crown among the Indian Army and Navy personnel as a result of Netaji's military activities."

Though his ideological differences with Mahatma Gandhi were well known, Bose's respect for Gandhi's principles remained steadfast, and their contrasting paths highlighted his own distinct approach. Netaji resigned from Congress in 1939 but his commitment to the cause of India's independence never wavered. For today's youth, this teaches us the importance of staying true to our ideals, even when the road ahead seems fraught with challenges.

Netaji recognised the importance of "Nari Shakti" by forming "Rani of Jhansi Regiment" within the INA, an all-women regiment that reinforced his belief in women's empower-

ment. These ideals are well reflected in Hon'ble PM's vision of a Bharat, where women play an integral role in shaping the country's future.

Celebrating Parakram Diwas has become an annual reminder of Netaji's undying legacy. Previous editions of the celebrations, marked by cultural events and exhibitions, have honoured his contributions, with Kolkata and Delhi as key venues, where his spirit of unity and patriotism reverberated through the streets.

This year, in Cuttack, the event has special significance as it honours his roots. In a world that demands resilience and innovation, his life story serves as a powerful inspiration for the youth to act and contribute to the realization of a Viksit Bharat—a self-sufficient, developed India. As Atal Bihari Vajpayee once said, "Subhas Chandra Bose's name evokes patriotism and inspires the nation to act with courage and selflessness." Let us carry forward his legacy by working together for a brighter, stronger future.

The writer is Union Minister for Culture and Tourism

'Skyrocketing' airfare, lack of tariff regulation dominate PAC meeting



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Concerns over "skyrocketing" airfare and "little action" by government agencies and regulator dominated the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting Wednesday as several MPs sought accountability from private airport operators and airlines to provide relief to passengers.

PAC Chairperson K C Venugopal described the meeting of the panel, which has witnessed fiery and at times acrimonious discussion along party lines in the past, as "one of the best" sittings. Members, he said, expressed concerns that the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) "is not acting properly as a regulator". "We need clear cut answers," he told PTI after the meeting. He said the regulatory body could not answer adequately the questions raised by members. The senior Congress MP said, "Concerns were raised by members that airfare is skyrocketing, and there is no action from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) or the Civil Aviation Department."

Sources said some MPs called for an amendment in the AERA Act to make it more effective in regulating fare amid general

unhappiness over issues like "arbitrary" rise in user development fees and price surge, as they alleged that the existing system fell short of fixing accountability and transparency in the functioning of private operators.

"A few MPs were upset over the manner in which both aeronautical tariff and non-aeronautical tariff are decided and flagged the need for having a mechanism in place for prior consultation," a source said. An MP said there should be a quasi-judicial body to hear such issues.

Civil aviation secretary and AERA chairperson were among those who appeared before the panel in the meeting in which presentations were made on related issues. While AERA is tasked with regulating tariff for services covering major airports, the DGCA is primarily concerned with safety issues.

Sources said the PAC members, in general, were unsatisfied with the replies of officials, and the panel has asked them to submit a detailed response.

Several members, sources said, gave examples of a few airports where the user development fee (UDF), which is included in the airfare, has gone up many times since they were handed over to private operators.

Guards were asleep when attacker entered house

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 22: The Bangladeshi national arrested for attacking Saif Ali Khan gained entry into the actor's building here by scaling its compound wall and went inside the main entrance after finding the security guards asleep, police said.

The Mumbai police Tuesday recreated the crime scene with the accused at the Satguru Sharan building in Bandra area, where the actor resides. Khan (54) was stabbed repeatedly by the intruder, Shariful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir alias Vijay Das (30), inside his 12-floor apartment in the wee hours of January 16.

The actor suffered multiple stab injuries in the attack and underwent an emergency surgery at the Lilavati Hospital. He returned home Tuesday. The police arrested the accused from neighbouring Thane city Sunday. In order to recreate the crime scene, the police took the accused to the actor's building



SAIF ALI KHAN ATTACK

as well as at other places that he possibly visited to have food, change clothes and board a train, the official said Tuesday. "Both the security guards in the building, where actor Saif Ali Khan resides, were sleeping when his attacker entered it by crossing over the boundary wall," the official said.

"As the accused found both the security guards in deep slumber, he entered the building from the main entrance where no CCTV camera has been installed. The accused removed his shoes and kept them in his bag to avoid making any noise and also switched off his phone," he said. During the probe, the police found there are no CCTV cameras installed

Multiple depts of forensic lab to examine evidence

Mumbai: Multiple departments under the Forensic Science Laboratory at Kalina in Mumbai will examine key pieces of evidence seized by the police investigating actor Saif Ali Khan knife attack case, officials said Wednesday. Police Sunday arrested the attacker, identified as Bangladeshi national Shareeful Islam Shehzad Mohammad Rohilla Amin Fakir, for stabbing Khan at his Bandra apartment January 16 during a burglary bid.

in the building's corridor, the official said.

The accused is kept in the lockup either at the Bandra or the Santacruz police stations (as per the probe requirement) and no one except the investigation officer has permission to meet him. He is being provided food given to the other accused as well, the official said.

R-DAY PARADE In a first, tri-services tableau to display jointness

The tableau would display a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with indigenous Arjun battle tank, Tejas fighter aircraft and advanced light helicopter, according to the defence ministry. The theme of the tri-services tableau will be 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat' (Strong and Secure India)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: In a first, a tri-services tableau depicting the broader spirit of "jointness" among the armed forces will roll down the majestic Kartavya Path as part of the Republic Day parade January 26.

The tableau would display a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and air with indigenous Arjun battle tank, Tejas fighter aircraft and advanced light helicopter, according to the defence ministry. The theme of the tri-services



tableau will be 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat' (Strong and Secure India).

On January 1, the ministry declared 2025 as the year of defence reforms and that the

focus will be to boost tri-services synergy to enhance India's military might "With the theme 'Shashakt aur Surakshit Bharat', the tableau will showcase the conceptual outlook for jointness and integration in the armed forces, ensuring national security and operational excellence," the ministry said Wednesday. It said the tableau would depict a joint operations room facilitating networking and communication among the three services. "It would display a battlefield scenario demonstrating a synchronised operation in land, water and

air with the indigenous Arjun main battle tank, Tejas MKII fighter aircraft, Advanced Light Helicopter, destroyer INS Visakhapatnam and a remotely piloted aircraft, reflecting the tri-services synergy in multi-domain operations," the ministry said.

It said these platforms exemplify the vision to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) in defence. The ministry said jointness and integration among the three services is at the core of the mandate given to the department of military affairs.

POST OF THE DAY

Pay Salary tax: 30 % Pay Petrol tax: 50 % Pay GST tax: 28 % Pay Vehicle tax: 30 % Pay Toll at every 10 Km Pay Education tax : 18% Pay Health tax : 18 %

SHORT TAKES

Saline case: Doc moves HC

Kolkata: Pallabi Bandyopadhyay, one of the 12 suspended doctors of a government hospital in West Midnapore district of West Bengal, approached the Calcutta High Court Wednesday, accusing the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of harassment. The doctor has alleged excesses by the CID within the hospital in the name of its parallel probe in the saline related deaths of two persons at the hospital earlier this month. The 12 doctors of the hospital, six seniors and six juniors, were suspended on charges of negligence of duty over the two deaths.

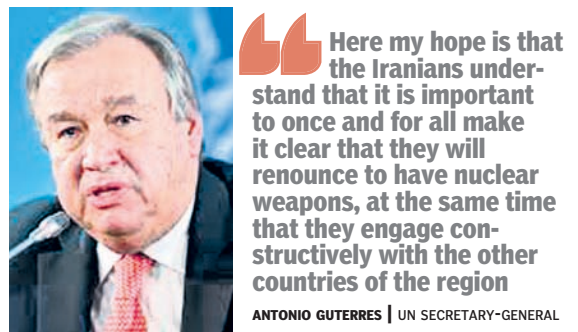
Ch'garh: 18 school students hospitalised

Balodabazar (Chhattisgarh): At least 18 students of a government school were hospitalised Wednesday after they complained of uneasiness in Chhattisgarh's Balodabazar-Bhatapara district, officials said. While officials said the exact reason behind the situation was yet to be ascertained, locals claimed pollution from nearby cement plants was causing serious health issues for them. During the day, the authorities, however, shut down the Alternate Fuel Resources (AFR) centre at one cement plant in the area over the alleged violation of green norms.

Shootout in Bihar

Patna: Former Bihar MLA Anant Singh escaped unhurt following an exchange of fire between two groups in Patna Wednesday, police said. No casualty was reported in the firing so far, Patna's Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Avkash Kumar said.

international



Here my hope is that the Iranians understand that it is important to once and for all make it clear that they will renounce to have nuclear weapons, at the same time that they engage constructively with the other countries of the region

60 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC TIES

The High Commission of India in Singapore will organise the Indian Film Festival 2025 (IFF 2025) in collaboration with the Singapore Film Society and screen 18 films for the Singapore public as part of the celebration of 60 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries



of the day quote

My heart is with the people of Los Angeles who are suffering so much as a result of the fires that have devastated entire neighbourhoods and communities

Significant that the Quad FMM took place within hours of the inauguration of the Trump administration. This underlines the priority it has in the foreign policy of its member states

Trump administration's desire to work with India to advance economic ties and address concerns related to irregular migration

Indian-American lawmakers oppose order

Trump's order removes birthright citizenship for children born in the US not just to undocumented parents but to 'lawful' immigrants who are temporarily on a student visa, H1B/H2B visa, or business visa

US BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP



States, and thus are not covered by the 14th Amendment's longstanding constitutional guarantee.

THE H-1B VISA IS A NON-IMMIGRANT VISA THAT ALLOWS US COMPANIES TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS IN SPECIALITY OCCUPATIONS THAT REQUIRE THEORETICAL OR TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES DEPEND ON IT TO HIRE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF EMPLOYEES EACH YEAR FROM COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA AND CHINA

Washington, Jan 22: Indian-American lawmakers have opposed the executive order by US President Donald Trump on changes in birthright citizenship, a move likely to hit not only illegal immigrants from around the world but also students and professionals from India.

Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna said changes in birthright citizenship as done through the executive order would impact newborn babies of not only illegal and undocumented immigrants but also those staying in this country legally like on H-1B visas.

"Trump's order removes birthright citizenship for children born in the US not just to undocumented parents but to 'lawful' immigrants who are temporarily on a student visa, H1B/H2B visa, or business visa.

away with the overwhelming number of H-1B visas - which is Congressional mandated 65,000 every year and another 20,000 for those who received higher education from the US.

SHORT TAKES

Sri Lanka repatriates 41 Indian fishermen

Colombo: Forty-one Indian fishermen detained by the Sri Lanka Navy have been repatriated by authorities here, the Indian mission here said Wednesday.

Khaleda Zia acquitted from sabotage case

Dhaka: A court in Bangladesh acquitted BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia Wednesday in a sabotage case filed in the southeastern Cumilla district 10 years ago.

Houthis release crew of commercial vessel

Dubai: Yemen's Houthi rebels said Wednesday they released the crew of the Galaxy Leader, a vehicle carrier seized in November 2023 at the start of their campaign in the Red Sea corridor.

Hamas' tight grip on Gaza complicates plan for peace

Cairo, Jan 22: In neighbourhoods levelled by 15 months of war with Israel, Hamas officials are overseeing the clearance of rubble in the wake of Sunday's ceasefire.



HAMAS MAINTAINS CONTROL OVER GAZA'S ADMINISTRATION AND SECURITY FORCES. ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE OVERSEEING THE CLEARANCE OF RUBBLE IN THE WAKE OF SUNDAY'S CEASEFIRE.

international NGOs, they said. Its police and gunmen - who for months were kept off the streets by Israeli airstrikes - were stationed in neighbourhoods through the Strip Tuesday.

A spokesperson for the United Nations in Geneva confirmed Tuesday there had been no reports of looting or attacks on aid workers since the ceasefire took effect.



Protestors during a demonstration against Founder and Chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Klaus Schwab amid the ongoing WEF Annual Meeting 2025, in Davos, Switzerland.

SNIPPETS

Pakistan crackdown on nationals deported from different countries

Karachi: The immigration authorities in Pakistan Wednesday launched a crackdown on its nationals deported from different countries after 220 people were sent back in the last 48 hours.

Former UK PM Rishi Sunak takes up posts at Oxford, Stanford universities

London: Britain's former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has taken on new academic roles at the University of Oxford in the UK and University of Stanford in the US - both alma maters of the Conservative Party member of Parliament for Richmond and Northallerton in northern England.

Prince Harry hails 'monumental' legal win over Murdoch newspapers

Harry, 40, the younger son of King Charles, had been suing News Group Newspapers (NGN), publisher of The Sun and the now-defunct News of the World, at the High Court in London, alleging the papers had illegally obtained private information about him from 1996 till 2011

at its Sun tabloid for the first time and paying substantial damages. Harry, 40, the younger son of King Charles, had been suing News Group Newspapers (NGN), publisher of The Sun and the now-defunct News of the World, at the High Court in London, alleging the papers had illegally obtained private information about him from 1996 till 2011.



time for accountability has arrived," said the statement, read by their lawyer David Sherborne outside the High Court. The trial to consider Harry's case, and a similar lawsuit from former senior British lawmaker Watson, had been due to start Tuesday but following last-gasp talks, the two sides reached a settlement, with NGN saying there had been wrongdoing at The Sun, something it had denied for years.

"NGN offers a full and unequivocal apology to the Duke of Sussex for the serious intrusion by The Sun between 1996 and 2011 into his private life, including incidents of unlawful activities carried out by private investigators working for The Sun," Sherborne told the court.

- Harry and Murdoch's UK paper group settle his lawsuit
Source says settlement involves eight-figure sum
Murdoch's NGN offers full apology for unlawful behaviour
NGN admits for first time unlawful behaviour by Sun tabloid
Group also apologises for targeting Princess Diana

"There are strong controls and processes in place at all our titles today to ensure this cannot happen now. There was no voicemail interception on The Sun," the spokesperson said, adding that the settlement marked the likely end of any lawsuits, and that future cases were liable to be thrown out.

NGN has paid out hundreds of millions of pounds to victims of phone-hacking and other unlawful information gathering by the News of the World, and settled more than 1,300 lawsuits involving celebrities, politicians, well-known sports figures and ordinary people who were connected to them or major events.

London, Jan 22: Prince Harry claimed a "monumental" victory over Rupert Murdoch's UK newspaper group Wednesday after the publisher settled his lawsuit, admitting unlawful ac-

life of Diana, Princess of Wales, his late mother, in particular during his younger years." It also admitted targeting Watson, including when he was a junior minister under then prime minister Gordon Brown, who had been due to give evidence if the trial had gone ahead.

'STRONG CONTROLS' In a statement, an NGN spokesperson said its apology was for the unlawful actions of private investigators working for The Sun, not of its journalists.

Business



I think we should have two inflation rates, one including food inflation and one without food inflation... so the relevant rate could be considered for what, which particular policy parameter one is looking at

NAGESH KUMAR
MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBER, RBI

HIRING ACTIVITY ZOOMS IN DEC

India's hiring activity rose 31 per cent in December, driven by consumer electronics, manufacturing, and construction and engineering sectors, a report said Wednesday. According to foundit insights tracker (fit), the country's hiring activity rose 12 per cent over the past six months, with a 31 per cent year-on-year increase in recruitment in December



of the day note

Our focus is on launching strategically located hotels, particularly in key religious centres, to cater to the growing demand for high-quality accommodations among pilgrims and visitors

VARUN JAIN
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, OYO



The drop in housing supply and sales in 2024 is due to the high base effect, as 2023 was a peak year

SAMIR JASUA
CEO & FOUNDER, PROPEQUITY



We project that our industry will attract over \$500 million in investments within the year, enabling startups to drive groundbreaking innovations in battery technology and electric vehicle infrastructure

DEBI PRASAD DASH
PRESIDENT, IESA



Q3 RESULTS

HDFC profit rises

New Delhi: Largest private sector lender HDFC Bank Wednesday reported a marginal 2 per cent rise in its standalone net profit to ₹16,736 crore for the third quarter ended December 2024. The bank had earned a net profit of ₹16,373 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal year. The total income on a standalone basis rose to ₹87,460 crore in the third quarter of FY25 against ₹81,720 crore in the year-ago period.

BPCL misses target

Mumbai: Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd reported a lower-than-expected third-quarter profit Wednesday, due to lower marketing margins and losses in its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) segment. The state-owned company's standalone net profit rose about 37% to ₹46.49 billion in the three months ended December. Analysts had expected a profit of ₹48.52 billion.

Tata Comm net up

New Delhi: Tata Communications reported a 3.5% rise in its third-quarter profit Wednesday, helped by steady demand for its data services. The firm's consolidated profit before exceptional items and taxes rose to ₹3.86 billion for the three months ended December, from ₹3.73 billion a year ago. Tata Communications provides services such as data connections and cybersecurity to enterprises.

HUL net profit shines

New Delhi: FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Ltd Wednesday reported a 19.18 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹2,989 crore in the December quarter, boosted by the sale of its 'Pureit' business. The company, which posted a consolidated net profit of ₹2,508 crore in the same quarter of the last fiscal year, said it will acquire 90.5 per cent shareholding of Uprising Science Pvt Ltd -- the firm behind the premium beauty brand Minimalist -- comprising secondary buyout for a cash consideration of ₹2,670 crore at a pre-money enterprise valuation of ₹2,955 crore.

Polycab profit jumps

New Delhi: Wires, cables and fast moving electric goods maker Polycab India Ltd Wednesday reported an 11.5 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at ₹464.35 crore in the December quarter, charged up by higher sales.

Taxpayers seek income tax cut in Budget: Survey

A majority of respondents, 57%, want lower income tax rates, while 25% advocate for higher exemption limits in the 2025-26 Budget to be presented Feb 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: As many as 57 per cent of individual taxpayers want taxes to be lowered in the upcoming Budget, Grant Thornton Bharat's pre-budget survey said Wednesday.

The survey said although 72 per cent of individual taxpayers have opted for a new income tax regime, a majority

(63 per cent) of taxpayers still seek an increase in incentives under the old tax regime.

To further enhance the appeal of the new tax regime, about 46 per cent of respondents advocate for lowering tax rates, while 26 per cent believe exemption limits can be increased.

Grant Thornton Bharat's pre-budget survey had over 500 respondents. The survey results reveal that individual taxpayers seek relief on the personal tax front to increase their disposable income.

A majority of respondents, 57 per cent, want lower income tax rates, while 25 per cent advocate for higher exemption limits in the 2025-26 Budget to be presented February 1.



The majority of respondents, 53 per cent, are advocating for the government to allow the set-off of house property losses under the new tax regime, the survey said.

Around 47 per cent desire a hike in the set-off limit or removal of the ₹2 lakh limit altogether under the old regime. These changes would provide greater flexibility in off-

setting losses, boost investment in real estate, and enable taxpayers to fulfill their aspirations to secure a reasonable residential accommodation.

Grant Thornton Bharat, Partner, Akhil Chandna said an increase in NPS tax deduction limits and more flexible NPS withdrawal rules would certainly promote retirement savings in the hands of taxpayers.

"Further, to promote a greener environment through the use of electric vehicles (EV), clarity is expected from the government on perquisite taxation rules for EV usage, and the deduction for the purchase of EVs should be reinstated under the law," Chandna said.

TCS becomes second global IT firm to cross \$20bn in brand value

Mumbai, Jan 22: Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has achieved a major milestone by becoming the second global IT services brand to cross a \$20 billion valuation in brand value.

The company's brand value is now pegged at an impressive \$21.3 billion, reflecting an 826% increase over the past 15 years, according to the Brand Finance IT Services 2025 rankings.

TCS' growth trajectory has been driven by a combination of sustained investments in innovation, a customer-first approach, and strategic marketing initiatives. The company's commitment to creating cutting-edge, AI-driven solutions, while emphasizing ethical practices and long-term impacts, have positioned it as a leader in the IT services industry.

EQUITIES REBOUND

Sensex jumps 567 pts, Nifty ends above 23,150 on recovery in IT, banking shares



| Stock | Change |
|---------------|--------|
| INFOSYS | +3.16% |
| TCS | +2.97% |
| TECH MAHINDRA | +2.28% |
| SUN PHARMA | +1.78% |
| BAJAJ FINSERV | +1.63% |

| Stock | Change |
|-------------|--------|
| TATA MOTORS | -2.24% |
| POWER GRID | -1.34% |
| AXIS BANK | -1.02% |
| SBIN | -0.76% |
| BAJAJ NTPC | -0.56% |

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 22: Benchmark Sensex rebounded nearly 567 points and Nifty regained 23,150 level on Wednesday following value buying in IT and banking shares and firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 566.63 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 76,404.99, driven by gains in Infosys, TCS and HDFC Bank. During the day, the benchmark surged 624.77 points or 0.82 per cent to hit an intraday high of 76,463.13.

The broader NSE Nifty climbed 130.70 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 23,155.35. In the intraday session, the Nifty rose 144.9 points or 0.63 per cent to 23,169.55 on the NSE.

The key stock indices had slumped to seven-month lows Tuesday due to foreign fund outflows and profit-taking by investors amid tariff war worries. Sensex tanked by 1,235 points and Nifty by 320 points.

Recovering its past losses, Infosys surged 3.16 per cent to emerge as the biggest gainer among Sensex scrips. Tata

Consultancy Services jumped 2.97 per cent and Tech Mahindra by 2.28 per cent. Sun Pharmaceutical, Bajaj Finserv, HCL Technologies, Bajaj Finance, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the gainers.

Tata Motors was the biggest

NSE crosses 11cr investors mark

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) Wednesday said its unique registered investors have crossed the 11 crore mark, with the latest 1 crore addition taking place in just five months, reflecting investor participation in the stock market through direct means. Investor registrations at the NSE have experienced a remarkable acceleration in recent times, with a 3.6 times jump in the last five years. It took 14 years since the NSE's commencement of operations in 1994 to reach 1 crore investors. The pace then quickened, with the next 1 crore registrations taking about seven years, followed by another 3.5 years for the next crore and the subsequent milestone of adding the fourth crore took just over a year. In the last five months, daily new unique investor registrations have consistently ranged between 47,000 and 73,000. This growth has been driven by several key factors, including the rapid advancement of digitisation, heightened investor awareness, financial inclusion efforts, and strong market performance. In 2024, the Nifty 50 index delivered a return of 8.8 per cent while the Nifty 500 index saw an impressive 15.2 per cent gain. Indian markets have had positive returns for the past nine consecutive years. With this, the total number of client codes (accounts) registered with the exchange stands at 21 crore. This includes all client registrations done till date.

The benchmark indices rebounded amidst heightened volatility following better-than-expected results from a major private bank

VINOD NAIR
HEAD OF RESEARCH, GEOJIT FINANCIAL SERVICES

loser among Sensex shares, dropping by 2.24 per cent. PowerGrid, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, NTPC, Tata Steel and Adani Ports were the major laggards.

Broader markets, however, closed lower. The BSE smallcap index slumped 1.56 per cent and midcap gauge declined 1.2 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, Focused IT rose the most by 2.19 per cent, followed by Information Technology by 1.88 per cent, Teck by 1.65 per cent, Bankex by 0.26 per cent and Financial Services by 0.17 per cent. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded shares worth ₹5,920.28 crore Tuesday.

Gold rallies to hit record high



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: Gold prices rallied by ₹630 to a lifetime high of ₹82,700 per 10 grams in the national capital Wednesday following persistent buying by jewellers and retailers amid strong global trends, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

Rallying for the sixth straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by ₹630 to hit a lifetime high of ₹82,330 per 10 grams. "Gold prices touched new all-time highs in Wednesday's session. The uncertainty surrounding US President Donald Trump's trade policy appears to be an important factor driving a haven flow toward precious metals," Saamil Gandhi, Senior Analyst of Commodities at HDFC Securities, said.

Gold of 99.9 per cent purity previously hit its record level of ₹82,400 October 31, 2024. Gold of 99.5 per cent purity hit an all-time of ₹82,000 per 10 grams same day. Silver also surged ₹1,000 to ₹94,000 per kg Wednesday.

Silver futures for March delivery increased ₹204 or 0.22 per cent to ₹92,295 per kg.

"Gold prices continue to rise as the dollar weakens. Markets are worried after Trump delayed his promised trade tariffs on China, Mexico, and Canada, raising fears they may come next month sparking fears of a prolonged trade war," Abans Holdings' Chief Executive Officer Chintan Mehta, said.

TOLIC (BANK) HOLDS 57TH HALF YEARLY MEET

BHUBANESWAR: Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Bank), Bhubaneswar has organized its 57th half yearly meeting January 21 at State Bank of India, Local Head Office in the Chairmanship of Dinesh Pruthi, Chairman, TOLIC (Bank) & Chief General Manager, State Bank of India, Bhubaneswar. Vichitrans Gupta, Deputy Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Sarada Prasanna Mohanty, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Sudhanshu KK Mishra, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Manoj Kumar Singh, Vice Chairman, TOLIC (Bank), Bhubaneswar & Circle Development Officer, State Bank of India also graced the occasion. Regional and Zonal Heads of all public sector banks and insurance companies situated at Bhubaneswar, senior executives and Rajbhasha Officers were also present in the meeting. The meeting was started with the welcome address by Manoj Kumar Singh, Vice President, TOLIC (Bank), Bhubaneswar. Singh appreciated all the members for their active cooperation and pro-active attitude in official language implementation in their respective offices. He also informed the members that TOLIC (Bank), Bhubaneswar has been conferred with regional "Naraakas Rajbhasha Samman" by Govt of India for its commendable work during 2024. Chairman, TOLIC (Bank), Bhubaneswar Dinesh Pruthi in his address said that we are all associated with the service sector and the role of Hindi and regional languages is immense in providing better customer service. He also stressed on finding ways to increase the use of Hindi on digital platforms.



Trump's exit from global tax deal not to hit India: Experts

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: The decision of the Trump administration to withdraw from the OECD's global tax deal will not have any impact on India, but it will severely affect the progress made thus far in reaching an international consensus on global minimum tax, experts said.

Soon after taking charge, US President Donald Trump in a Presidential memorandum said that the "Global Tax Deal have no force or effect within the United States", thus nullifying the progress made so far by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to bring 140 countries on the same platform to levy a minimum 15 per cent tax on profits of multinational corporates.

Nangia & Co LLP Managing

Partner Rakesh Nangia said the impact of the US pulling out of the global tax deal would have monumental impact on the global tax landscape, especially for countries/jurisdictions which have already adopted/ formulated rules in their domestic law for implementing Global anti-Base Erosion Model or GloBE rules (Pillar 2).

Around 50 jurisdictions have already adopted or made significant strides towards adoption of GloBE rules. These jurisdictions will have to now undertake a course correction to adjust to the new realities.

"India, on the other hand, have always adopted a 'wait and watch' policy on adoption of GloBE rules and has yet to introduce any substantial legislative change in this direction," Nangia said.

Further, in Union Budget



2024, India also abolished the 2 per cent equalisation levy (which, being a unilateral action, was a bone of contention for the US).

"Thus, US pulling out of the global tax deal would not have much impact to India purely from a tax collection stand-

point, however, this decision is going to severely impact the progress made thus far in reaching an international consensus and may potentially also force OECD to go back to the drawing board," Nangia said.

In 2021 nearly 140 countries signed the OECD's global tax

India, on the other hand, have always adopted a 'wait and watch' policy on adoption of GloBE rules and has yet to introduce any substantial legislative change in this direction

RAKESH NANGIA
MANAGING PARTNER, NANGIA & CO LLP

The two-pillar solution aimed to address "race to the bottom" approach of global tax competition and discourage cross-border tax avoidance by firms. Pillar 1 aimed to reallocate the residual profits of large multinationals from their home countries to jurisdictions where they generate revenue, and Pillar 2 establishes a 15 per cent global minimum corporate tax.

"Earlier remarks of Mr Trump and other Republican

lawmakers left little to no doubt about US's position on the OECD's global tax deal -- it was never a question of 'if' but a question of 'when'," Nangia said.

Tax and consulting firm AKM Global, Head of Tax Markets, Yeeshu Sehgal said OECD's pillar 2 initiative sets a minimum tax rate of 15 per cent for every country that is signatory to it. This has caused a lot of concerns for the US because their current tax rules might conflict with this new global minimum tax.

One concern is that some US companies might end up paying tax twice on the same income. Another issue is that the new rules might change how taxes are calculated, potentially increasing the burden on US companies with operations in other countries, he said.

All-round display by India

Abhishek's blazing fifty, Arshdeep's record-breaking spell power Men in Blue to emphatic win vs England



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Kolkata, Jan 22: Abhishek Sharma smashed a blistering 34-ball-79 in an exhibition of breathtaking power-hitting on the back of a disciplined bowling effort, as India outplayed England by seven wickets in the first T20I here Wednesday.

India now lead the five-match series 1-0. On a day when Gautam Gambhir's coaching set-up made headlines by delaying Mohammed Shami's much-anticipated return to international cricket, India bundled out England for a paltry 132 at Eden Gardens, where the average first-innings score is around 195.

Mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy was at his devastating best, returning figures of 3/23, ably supporting left-arm quick Arshdeep Singh's record-breaking spell of 2/17.

Arshdeep not only rattled England with his precision but also etched his name in the record books, surpassing Yuzvendra Chahal (96 wickets) to become India's leading wicket-taker in T20Is with 97 scalps. But Abhishek's clean hitting, including five fours and eight

sixes, in a 20-ball half-century, took the game away from England as India cruised to the target in commanding fashion with 43 balls to spare.

He shared a third wicket partnership with Tilak Verma (19 not out) who showed fine maturity in the partnership of 84 that came at a strike rate of 200.

Abhishek showcased his full range of shots, flicking one over fine leg reminiscent of Yuvraj Singh, backing away to uppercut another for six over third man, and finishing the over with a straight-driven boundary.

The 18-run over eased the pressure on India and shifted the game decisively.

India's strategy against Archer's final over was cautious, as Abhishek and Tilak Verma played him out with maturity.

Abhishek was handed a lifeline on 29 when Adil Rashid spilled a sharp return catch.

Capitalising on the reprieve, the Indian opener unleashed his power, taking on Rashid with disdain. He smashed the leg-spinner for a boundary and two towering sixes in consecutive deliveries, putting India

firmly in control.

Abhishek brought up his half-century in spectacular fashion, hooking a 140.7 kph short ball from Jamie Overton over fine leg with supreme confidence.

By the halfway mark, India had surged to 100/2, turning the target into a mere formality.

Gambhir's decision was vindicated because perfect



execution of plans by his spin troika of who snared 5 for 67 in 12 overs bowled between them.

Despite the dewy conditions, India went in with three spinners -- Ravi Bishnoi (0/23 in 4 overs), Axar Patel (2/22 in 4 overs), and Chakravarthy -- backing record-breaker Arshdeep Singh's fiery opening spell.

The left-arm quick set the tone by dismissing both openers, Phil Salt (0) and Ben Duckett (4), in successive overs en route to his 2/17 from four overs. His first spell of 3-0-10-2 also saw him surpass Chahal's tally.



CHAMPIONS TROPHY

India will adhere to ICC's dress code: BCCI

There were some unconfirmed media reports that the BCCI had objected to the host nation's name being embossed on their jersey, which is an established practice for all ICC events, owing to the tense political ties between the two countries



thing that's still not decided," Saikia added.

There were some unconfirmed media reports that the BCCI had objected to the host nation's name being embossed on their jersey, which is an established practice for all ICC events, owing to the tense political ties between the two countries.

It is understood that there was never any doubt about following the logo guidelines and the BCCI did not raise concerns with the global body.

When Pakistan came to India in 2023 for the 50-over ICC World Cup, Babar Azam and his men duly sported the host country's name on their jerseys as part of the tournament protocol.

The Champions Trophy is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 22: The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI Wednesday, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to host Pakistan's name on the side's official jersey.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan.

"BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during Champions Trophy," Saikia told PTI. "Whatever the other teams will do regarding the logo and dress code, we are going to follow in true letter and spirit," he added.

However, Saikia said that whether national captain Rohit Sharma participates in the ICC's pre-tournament engagements, including a press conference and an official photo shoot in Lahore, is something that is still being discussed.

"Whether Rohit Sharma travels to Pakistan for ICC media engagements is some-

being conducted under a 'Hybrid Model' for the first time as BCCI didn't get permission from the Indian government to travel to Pakistan.

India will play all its matches, including the marquee league match against the arch-rivals from across the border, in Dubai. In case, the Indian team reaches the semi-final and subsequently final, the two matches will be played in Dubai as well.

As far as Rohit Sharma visiting Pakistan is concerned, the matter is still under consideration and there are certain issues that the Indian cricket board needs to consider if its captain visits Pakistan for a customary photo-shoot and pre-event press conference.

It remains to be seen if the ICC decides to hold these events in Pakistan or shift the pre-tournament captains' engagements to the UAE.

Even that would be a massive logistical task for all other teams, which are playing in Pakistan.

The opening match of the tournament between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand will be held in Karachi February 19. India will start their campaign against Bangladesh a day later.

At least 17K security personnel to be deployed in Pakistan

Lahore: At least 17,000 security personnel would be deployed for the ICC Champions Trophy matches in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi from February 19. According to sources, the Punjab government has started preparations to provide security round the clock for the participating teams, covering the team hotel as well as the match venues in Lahore and Rawalpindi. "The Punjab government will deploy some 12,500 officers and other security personnel for the matches and for the teams," an official said. He added that 7,600 police and security personnel including special commandos will be on duty for matches in Lahore, while 4,500 officers, including 411 from the Special Branch, will oversee security in Rawalpindi. The official said that snipers and aerial monitoring will be carried out during the tournament with support from the Army if required. He said the paramilitary Rangers personnel would be on active duty with the police.

SHORT TAKES

Bumrah, Jadeja on top in Test rankings

Dubai: India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continued to remain the undisputed No 1 Test bowler, while Ravindra Jadeja maintained his top spot in the all-rounders' category, in the latest ICC rankings released Wednesday. Bumrah, who had made history ahead of the fifth and final Border-Gavaskar Test against Australia in January by recording the highest-ever ICC Rankings rating for an Indian bowler at 907 points, is currently on a career-best points tally of 908.

Sindhu, Sen to lead 14-member squad

New Delhi: Double Olympic medalist PV Sindhu and World Championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen will lead a 14-member Indian team for the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championship to be held in Qingdao, China from February 11-16. India had clinched a bronze medal in the last edition of the competition in Dubai in 2023. The strong Indian team will also have star doubles players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty. The women's doubles pairing could be either Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly or Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto.

Barca's comeback win

Liverpool: It was a night of high drama in the Champions League with 33 goals scored across nine games. Nine of them came in Barcelona's battle with Benfica. Raphinha scored in stoppage time to complete a rousing comeback as Barcelona won in Lisbon despite having been 4-2 down with less than a quarter of an hour remaining. Barcelona stays second with 18 points from seven games, and is now unbeaten in six games in all competitions since the new year.

Committed to nurture talent at grassroots: Suraj

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 22: The CM Trophy Football Championship has started in Odisha to foster holistic sports development and provide a golden opportunity for grassroots talent.

The tournament, organised by the Sports and Youth Services Department, Odisha in collaboration with the Football Association of Odisha, aims to nurture young footballers. The championship is for the players under 15 years of age.

In the 1st phase the championship currently is being organised at 16 places, including Angul, Bolangir, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Kendrapara, Keonjhar, Khurda, Puri, Sambalpur, Sundargarh and Rourkela.

Sports Minister Suryabanshi Suraj said, "Our government is dedicated to the overall development of sports and sportspersons in the state. By focusing on grassroots talent, we aim to create a



strong foundation for future athletes. The CM Trophy provides an excellent platform for the young players to showcase their skills and achieve excellence."

Notably, this championship will be conducted in phases. The initial phase involves competitions among various football clubs in the districts. Following this, 31 teams, including one from Bhubaneswar and 30 from the districts, will advance to the cluster level stage. In the cluster level stage, these teams will be divided into four clusters based in Sambalpur, Bhubaneswar, Jeypore and Keonjhar.

OFC stun Bengaluru FC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangalore, Jan 22: Odisha FC returned to winning ways after four matches with a come-from-behind 3-2 triumph over 10-man Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) here Wednesday.

Diego Mauricio (29th and 38th) struck a brace -- both from penalties -- while Jerry Mawihmingthanga (50th) scored the other goal for Odisha. Edgar Mendez (10th) and former India captain Sunil Chhetri (13th) scored for Bengaluru FC.

The hosts started the game strongly as they were 2-0 up within the first 13 minutes courtesy of goals from Mendez and Chhetri. However, Odisha FC came back into the game when Aleksandar Jovanovic was handed marching orders and Mauricio converted two consecutive spot-kicks before Mawihmingthanga scored the decisive goal in the second half.

Bengaluru FC got off the blocks quickly with high pressing and pushed Odisha FC back in the initial exchanges. Their sustained pressure in the open-



ing minutes was rewarded when the hosts found the net in the 10th minute courtesy of a goal from Mendez.

Suresh Wangjam picked out the Spaniard with a fantastic long ball, and the experienced forward calmly slotted it past Thoiba Moirangthem and Amrinder Singh in goal.

Things got more complicated for the Juggernauts when Bengaluru FC doubled the lead in the 13th minute when Alberto

Noguera recycled possession and played a great ball to Chhetri, who showed exquisite footwork to waltz past the entire Odisha FC backline before nestling it into the top right corner of the net.

Odisha's first strong opportunity came in the 19th minute when Gurpreet Singh Sandhu missed the flight off the ball and it landed straight to Hugo Boumous. With the goal gaping, the midfielder's effort went way over the target.

TATA STEEL MASTERS

Pragg beats Mendonca to jump into sole lead

AGENCIES

Wijk Aan Zee, Jan 22: Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa crashed through the defences of fellow Indian Leon Luke Mendonca to jump into sole lead after the fourth round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here.

Praggnanandhaa started off with an innocuous Ruy Lopez closed but found his chances in the middle game when Mendonca, clearly being the rookie here, could not handle the pressure of another high-profile game.

It was another day when Praggnanandhaa found the fire to score his third win on the trot after 46 moves.



Interestingly, all of Praggnanandhaa's victories have come at the expense of the Indians so far in the tournament, with the GM now looking forward to the clash against world champion D Gukesh.

With his third win, the Chennai-based player has stamped his authority ahead of the first rest day of the long and grueling tournament that lasts till 13 rounds with three rest days thrown in.

Recently-crowned world champion D Gukesh played true to his instinct but could not get past Alexey Sarana, who now plays for Serbia instead of Russia. The Indian, playing with black pieces, tried every trick under the sun but Sarana stuck to the basics to not force anything which could be fatal.

HISTORIC TRIUMPH

Sports min felicitates Kho Kho WC-winning teams

MANDAVIYA PITCHES FOR THE SPORT'S INCLUSION IN ASIAN GAMES, 2036 OLYMPICS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi, Jan 22: Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Wednesday, felicitated the Indian men's and women's Kho Kho teams that created history at the first-ever World Cup.

Hosts India had a double delight at the tournament by lifting the maiden crown in both men's and women's categories at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium January 19. Both teams defeated Nepal in their respective finals.

The full squad of the men's and women's Kho Kho teams as well as the coaches, Sudhanshu Mittal, President of the Kho Kho Federation of India



(KKFI) and other officials from the Union Sports Ministry and the Sports Authority of India were present on the occasion.

"Today, I met the Indian men's and women's teams who created history by winning the inaugural Kho-Kho World Cup. Congratulations to both the teams for bringing glory to

India's traditional sport at the world level and best wishes for their future. The whole country is proud of you all," Mandaviya posted on X. Talking about the resurgence of traditional games in the nation, Mandaviya said, "Traditional games showcase the resilience, community spirit and most importantly, up-

holds our traditional sporting value. The world has so much to learn from the richness of these traditional games."

With the highlight being the 2036 Olympics which India has put forth a bid to host, the Union Minister added that the winning flow from all the stakeholders should continue,

with the latest target being the Asian Games 2026.

Out of the 23 countries that took part in the Kho Kho World Cup 2025 at the national capital, India came on top. The credit has largely been given to the month-long camp at the Sports Authority of India JLN Stadium.

