



## Samantha's revelation

Actor Samantha Ruth Prabhu shares her mantra that has proved to be a game changer in getting through tough moments

LEISURE | P2



## Jalgaon train tragedy

A team of senior officials initiates a probe into the Jalgaon train tragedy in which 12 people lost their lives

NATIONAL | P9



## Maruti to hike prices

Maruti Suzuki says it will hike prices by up to ₹32,500 across various models from February 1

BUSINESS | P11



## Gukesh shines

World champion D Gukesh becomes the highest-ranked Indian chess player, at fourth, in the latest FIDE rankings

SPORTS | P12

## Kapil, Remo, Rajpal get threat mails

AGENCIES

**Mumbai, Jan 23:** The Mumbai police have registered a case after threat mails were sent to people from the entertainment industry, including comedian Kapil Sharma, actor Rajpal Yadav and choreographer Remo D'Souza, an official said Thursday.

The Amboli police registered an FIR after a mail was sent from a person named "Vishnu" to actor Rajpal Yadav December 14 last year. The mail threatened to harm the actor, his family and comedian Kapil Sharma, the official said.

"We have been monitoring your recent activities, and we believe it is imperative that we bring a sensitive matter to your attention. This is not a publicity stunt or an attempt to harass you," the email said, asking them to "treat this message with the utmost seriousness and confidentiality".

Preliminary inquiry suggested that the mail, sent from the mail ID 'don99284@gmail.com', was sent from Pakistan, the police official said, adding that the investigation into the matter is underway.

Meanwhile, choreographer Remo D'Souza and singer and stand-up comedian Sugandha Mishra have approached the Oshiwara police station with similar complaints, he added.

## Oscar nominations

**New York:** Spanish-language musical crime film written and directed by Jacques Audiard Emilia Pérez has led Oscar nominations, which were revealed Thursday. The film scored 13 noms, setting a record for a non-English-language film. That surpasses the previous record holders, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and Roma, which each earned 10. Following Emilia Pérez were The Brutalist and Wicked, which tied with 10 noms apiece. A Complete Unknown and Conclave followed with eight mentions each. All five of those films will compete for best picture with Anora, Dune: Part Two, I'm Still Here, Nickel Boys and The Substance. P2

## IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Tragic, but we can't start a campaign against rumours... it might make us lose elections

## Won't tolerate disruptions in House by Oppn: Speaker

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar, Jan 23:** Ahead of the Budget session of the Odisha Assembly scheduled to begin next month, Speaker Surama Padhy Thursday said that the House will not tolerate disruptions or obstructions by Opposition members.

Padhy, who recently attended the 85th All India Presiding Officers' Conference at Patna, said there is a need to maintain discipline in the Assembly.

"The House will welcome constructive suggestions from Opposition members, but not tolerate disruptions or obstructions by Opposition members,"



**BLAZE RAGES:** Emergency vehicles at the scene of the Hughes fire in Castaic, a northwestern neighbourhood of Los Angeles, California. Firefighters fought to maintain the upper hand on a huge and rapidly moving wildfire that swept through rugged mountains north of Los Angeles and resulted in more than 50,000 people being put under evacuation orders or warnings

## Man kills wife, boils body parts in pressure cooker

In a ghastly reminder of one of the most bizarre and gory murders in Bhubaneswar that shook the country in 2013, an ex-serviceman in Telangana allegedly killed his wife following a fight and boiled her chopped body parts in a pressure cooker before disposing of those in a lake to destroy evidence last week. In the Bhubaneswar incident, retired Army doctor Somnath Parida had killed his wife, Ushasree Samal, in a fit of rage. Parida, then 78, later cut her body into 300 pieces, which were found stuffed in small tiffin boxes around 19 days after the crime. According to psychologist Wanlop Piyamanotham and criminologist Natee Jitsawang, murderers, who dismember their victims, often have professional experience or childhood trauma.

AGENCIES

**Hyderabad, Jan 23:** A 45-year-old man allegedly killed his wife, dismembered her body and boiled the parts in a pressure cooker before dumping the remains in a lake last week, police said.

According to police sources, Guru Murthy and Venkata Madhavi, 35, from Prakasam district



of Andhra Pradesh had been living in a rented house in New Venkateswara Nagar Colony in Jillelaguda under Rangareddy district with their two children for the last five years.

Police said they took up the investigation after Madhavi's mother Subbamma lodged a complaint January 18 that she was missing.

According to the complaint, Madhavi had left the house after a fight with her husband. Guru Murthy, an ex-serviceman employed as a security guard, had accompanied Subbamma to lodge

the complaint. The police, which took up the probe into the missing complaint, scanned the footage of CCTVs in front of the house. They did not find any visuals of Madhavi leaving the house while the suspicious movements of Guru Murthy were recorded.

Police grilled Guru Murthy, who initially tried to mislead the investigators but finally admitted to his crime late Wednesday night. However, the police are not entirely depending on the statement of the accused for the probe as he gave incoherent answers to some of the questions. Pending recovery of body parts, cops were yet to formally arrest Guru Murthy.

The accused reportedly shared shocking details of his brutal act. The couple had an argument January 16 when the children were away. In a fit of rage, the accused hit her head with a heavy object resulting in her death. To dispose of the body, he cut it into pieces with a chopper. He then put the pieces in a pressure cooker and boiled those. The accused later packed the pieces in plastic covers and threw those in a nearby lake, police said.

Different police teams were working to gather clues both from the house and the lake.

## CCPA notice to Apple, Ola, Uber

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**New Delhi, Jan 23:** The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has issued notices to tech giant Apple Inc and cab aggregators Ola and Uber following consumer complaints about software performance and pricing disparities, Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said Thursday.

Apple has been asked to respond to technical issues reported by iPhone users after a recent software update. "The department, after examining consumer grievances, has issued a notice to Apple through the CCPA, seeking a response on the matter," Joshi said in a social media post.

A survey by LocalCircles revealed that 60 per cent of iPhone users experienced service problems, with call failures being the most significant issue.

Separately, Ola and Uber have been served notices concerning allegations of differential pricing based on users' mobile operating systems. "As a follow-up to the earlier observation of apparent #DifferentialPricing based on the different models of mobiles (#iPhones/#Android) being used, Department of Consumer Affairs through the CCPA has issued notices to major cab aggregators #Ola and #Uber, seeking their responses," Joshi said in a social media post.

## CM: Little mention of Netaji's legacy in books

AGENCIES

**Bhubaneswar/Cuttack, Jan 23:** Despite the fact that the British had acknowledged Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Fauj cut short their rule in India, unfortunately the legacy of the great patriot finds little mention in books on India's freedom struggle, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Thursday.

Majhi made this remark after inaugurating the three-day Parakram Diwas celebrations organised by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Ministry of Culture at Barabati Fort in Cuttack, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter. Though the country has been celebrating Parakram Diwas since 2021, this is the first time that the event is being held in Cuttack, Netaji's birthplace.

"Odisha and Cuttack are proud of Netaji, who emerged as a great nationalist and a true patriot," Majhi said. Expressing concern about the limited discussion on Netaji in Indian history books, Majhi said, "The British and some historians acknowledge that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and his Azad Hind Fauj had abruptly brought the colonial rule to an end. It is unfortunate that there is little men-



tion of Netaji's legacy in books on India's freedom struggle."

Majhi further highlighted Netaji's dedication to the nation, saying, "Netaji refused to serve under British rule even though he was selected for the coveted Indian Civil Services. He preferred the path of struggle for India's freedom and met Mahatma Gandhi in Mumbai in 1921. The rest, as they say, is history."

"Netaji's death remains a mystery despite his outstanding contribution to the freedom struggle. Let us pledge to build a 'developed India, developed Odisha' inspired by Netaji's ideals," Majhi said. The CM emphasised the importance of educating future generations about Netaji's life and his connection to Cuttack.

After arriving in Cuttack, Majhi visited Netaji's birthplace at Odia Bazar, where he paid floral tributes to the statue of Netaji and attended an art exhibition.

## Sydney's stinky corpse flower captivates thousands

ASSOCIATED PRESS

**Sydney, Jan 23:** The rare unfurling of an endangered plant that emits the smell of decaying flesh drew thousands of devoted fans to a greenhouse in Sydney Thursday where they joined three-hour lines to experience a momentous bloom — and a fragrance evoking gym socks and rotting garbage.

Tall, pointed and smelly, the corpse flower is scientifically known as *Amorphophallus titanum* — or *bunga bangkai* in Indonesia, where the plants are found in the Sumatran rainforest.

But to fans of this specimen, she's *Putricia* — a portmanteau of 'putrid' and 'Patricia' eagerly adopted by her followers who,

naturally, call themselves *Putricians*. For a week, she has graced a stately and gothic display in front of a purple curtain and wreathed in mist from a humidifier at the Royal Sydney Botanic Garden.

Her rise to fame has been rapid, with up to 20,000 admirers filing past for a moment in her increasingly pungent presence. No corpse flower has bloomed at the garden for 15 years.

**A SLOW BLOOMER**  
There are thought to be only 300 of the plants in the wild and fewer than 1,000 including those in cultivation. The corpse flower only blooms every 7-10 years in its natural habitat.

"The fact that they open very rarely, so they flower rarely, is



obviously something that puts them at a little bit of a disadvantage in the wild," said garden spokesperson Sophie Daniel, who designed Patricia's kooky and funereal display. "When they open, they have to hope that another flower is open nearby, because they can't self-pollinate."

Putricia's flower was spotted in December when she was just 25 centimetres high. By Thursday, she was 1.6 metres tall.

During the day, her flower spike slowly opened like a pleated skirt around a majestic central tuber, the yellow-green outer curling to reveal a burgundy centre.

**PUTRICIA-MANIA BUILDS**

As excitement grew in Sydney about the unfolding bloom, garden staff installed crowd barriers giving the Victorian greenhouse the air of a rock concert. Fans trod a red carpet to view Patricia from behind velvet ropes in a display inspired by Queen Victoria's funeral, the Rocky Horror Picture Show and the oeuvre of the late director David Lynch.

Inside, fans took selfies and leaned in for a sniff — a more perilous prospect as Patricia's odour developed. People inhaled the 'slaughterhouse' stench and cancelled their dinner plans, said Sydney Morning Herald science reporter Angus Dalton. "I am sickened," he added. "I am in awe."

leisure



DI CAPRIO, SCORSESE IN TALKS FOR THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY

Hollywood veteran Martin Scorsese and star Leonardo DiCaprio are revisiting The Devil in the White City...

OSCARS TO HONOUR LA AS 'CITY OF DREAMS'

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences sent a letter to members ahead of Oscar nominations...



FORTUNE FORECAST

GaneshSpeaks.com accuracy • reliability • trust FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181

ARIES You are very sensitive, and some people will disturb your peace of mind today.

TAURUS Today, says Ganesh, you will be likely to encounter someone who is bent upon provoking and getting on your nerves.

GEMINI You will keep your emotions aside and concentrate solely on your work today.

CANCER The day is very favourable, says Ganesh. You will feel a sense of joy and happiness with your valuable possessions.

LEO Your entire day will be spent at work. Those working in large corporations will have to fulfill heightened expectations from their superiors.

VIRGO You will stay away from partnership ventures, Ganesh says you have the ability to control large-scale projects on your own.

LIBRA Ganesh says you will put everything aside to pay more attention to your outward appearance and your beauty as you will be more aware about it.

SCORPIO You are ready to take up the challenges that life has to throw at you. Thanks to the confidence within you, which gives you power to fight it out against all odds.

SAGITTARIUS The day begins on a bright note and you decide to flaunt your sunny side up, foresees Ganesh.

CAPRICORN Practical and creative, you are able to utilise your talents in the best possible manner.

AQUARIUS Be it about solving financial issues or concerns about income, money matters will keep your mind occupied through out the day.

PISCES You are fond of traveling and are always looking for an excuse to set off. Hence it comes as no surprise if you pack your bags and decide to embark upon a journey on a whim today.

IFFB: DAY II

'The jungle belongs to Adivasis, not Maoists'



Marathi film director Chattrapal Ninawe responding to an audience question while FSB President Subrat Beura looks on

Bhubaneswar, Jan 23: A series of captivating short films and engaging discussions Thursday here at the Guru Kelu Charan Mohapatra (GKCM) Odissi Research Centre...

reflected the struggles of a matriarch torn between tradition and her personal desires, showcasing the complexities of aging and power. In the post-lunch session, the audience was captivated by Berlinale award-winner Ghaath...

Emilia Pérez leads Oscar nominations

New York: Spanish-language musical crime film Emilia Pérez, written and directed by Jacques Audiard, has led Oscar nominations, which were revealed Thursday. The film scored 13 noms...

Anuja earns a nod Indian cinema celebrates another Oscar nomination as Anuja, a short film backed by Priyanka Chopra and Guneet Monga, secures a coveted spot in the Best Live Action Short Film category at the 2025 Academy Awards.

up two noms for the film, for best director and best adapted screenplay, while Zoe Saldana landed a supporting acting nom for her performance. Wicked's noms included acting noms for Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande...



Emilia Pérez nominated for A Real Pain. Among the studios, Netflix leads with 16 noms.

Sam's mantra to beat odds

Chennai: Actress Samantha has shared a simple and powerful mantra that has proved to be a game changer for her with her fans. The popular actress, who is rated as one of the top heroines in the Tamil and Telugu film industries...



Taapsee's career changing moment

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu recently reflected on the pivotal moment in her career when a brief yet impactful role in the 2015 film Baby helped shape her trajectory in the industry. On the occasion of the film's 10th anniversary...



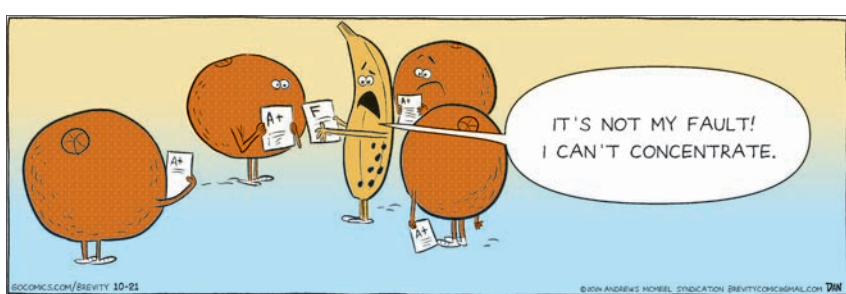
PEANUTS



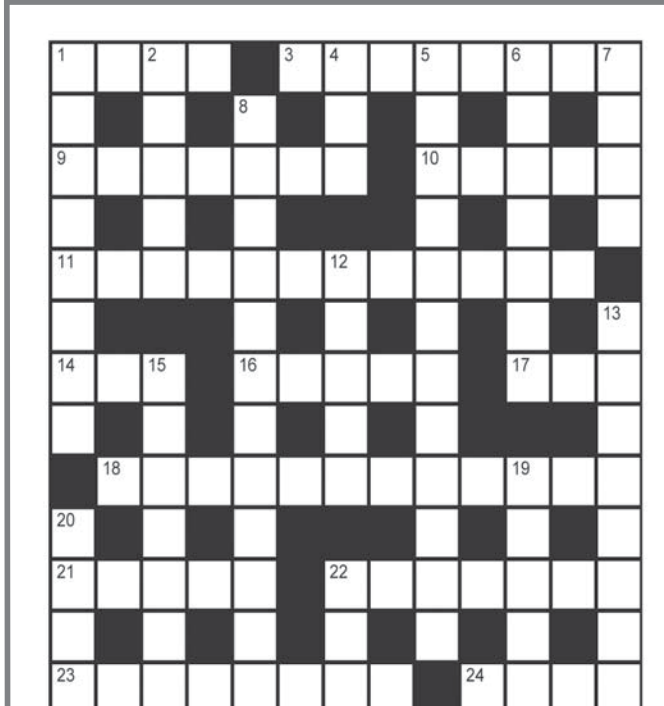
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



CROSSWORD



- Across 1 Splinter group 2 Farewell 3 Rioted 22 Grape arbor 9 Aardvark 23 Intensified 10 Chivalrous 24 Sensed 11 Astronauts' ride (5,7) 12 Perfected morsel 13 Applicable 14 Quick swim 15 Assumption 16 Inert gas 17 Fish eggs 18 Underling (2,2) 19 Pilotless aircraft 20 Motel employee 22 Pastry

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.

Sudoku grid with numbers 6, 8, 3, 5, 1, 6, 9, 8, 4, 7, 4, 8, 1, 3, 8, 7, 2, 2, 4, 5, 1, 3, 2, 3, 6, 9

SOLUTIONS

Crossword solutions: CHARGE, IMPORT, EMU, RUMMAGE, SNEER, IAN, FERRA, SENNA, RESPOND, ELBOW, GREASE, AEM, CONTOUR, BASTE, AGRABAAHD, CRUDE, TASTING, IISSESEFE, ADDLED, OYSTER

Sudoku solution grid with numbers 7, 3, 5, 2, 6, 4, 8, 1, 9, 2, 1, 4, 8, 9, 7, 6, 3, 5, 8, 6, 9, 5, 1, 3, 4, 2, 7, 9, 2, 7, 1, 3, 8, 5, 6, 4, 4, 8, 3, 6, 2, 5, 7, 9, 1, 1, 5, 6, 4, 7, 9, 2, 8, 3, 5, 4, 1, 3, 8, 2, 9, 7, 6, 3, 7, 8, 9, 4, 6, 1, 5, 2, 6, 9, 2, 7, 5, 1, 3, 4, 8

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

#startupindia



# 9 years of Startup India Monumental Achievements, Non-stop Progress

In 2016  
barely few  
Startups



Now  
more than  
**1,57,000**  
Startups

In 2016  
hardly any  
Unicorn



Now  
over  
**100+**  
Unicorns

**48%**  
of startups  
now have at least  
one woman director

Startups  
now flourish in  
**95%**  
of districts

**17.2 Lakh+**  
direct Jobs created  
across various sectors

Nearly  
**₹13 Lakh  
crore**  
funding secured



CBC 05/2017/13/0028/2425















## MANIPUR CM WARNS SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLERS

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh Thursday warned social media page handlers who upload posts that violate law and personal space of others



Netaji's unyielding spirit instilled self-respect and gave a voice to the people  
HEMANT SOREN | JHARKHAND CM

## JALGAON TRAIN ACCIDENT

# Team of 5 senior officials initiates probe

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: A team of five senior railway officials has initiated an inquiry into the Jalgaon train tragedy in which 12 people lost their lives, the Railway Board said Thursday.

The team includes principal chief safety officer (PCSO), principal chief security commissioner (PCSC), principal chief electrical engineer (PCEE), principal chief mechanical engineer (PCME) and principal chief commercial manager (PCCM) -- all from the Central Railway Zone, it said.

The team has initiated an investigation into the incident, said Dilip Kumar, Executive Director, Information and Publicity, Railway Board. "The PCSO has been appointed as convener," Kumar said. "They have been asked to look into the cause of the incident and submit a report as soon as possible," he added.

Twelve passengers of the Mumbai-bound Pushpak Express, who got off the train after an alarm chain-pulling incident, were run over by the Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi on the adjacent tracks in Maharashtra's Jalgaon district Wednesday evening. Swapnil Dhanraj Nila, Chief Public Relations Officer



## KARNATAKA EXPRESS ARRIVED 20 MINUTES AFTER PUSHPAK HALTED BY CHAIN PULLING

NEW DELHI: Dismissing reports that some passengers of Pushpak Express jumped off the train amid a fire rumour, railway officials Thursday said the passengers alighted after they stopped the train by pulling alarm chain and had adequate time to move to safe location as Karnataka Express arrived 20 minutes later. The officials said that the passengers who got down on the adjacent tracks had adequate time to move to safe areas, but they kept standing without realising the impending danger. Several videos shared by passengers prior to the tragedy also suggest the same.

(CPRO), Central Railway, earlier told PTI that Railway Protection Force and Government Railway Police had initiated a preliminary inquiry after the tragedy Wednesday to find out what caused passengers to pull the alarm chain and alight the Pushpak Express. Now, the

probe has been handed over to the team of five senior officials. Asked if the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) will also investigate the incident, Nila said, "The order for a CRS enquiry hasn't been issued yet." Initial reports suggested that a rumour of fire caused panic

among Pushpak Express' passengers who alighted and waited at the adjacent tracks for a few minutes when the speeding Karnataka Express mowed many of them down. The Railway Ministry clarified that no spark or smoke emanated from any part of the coach.

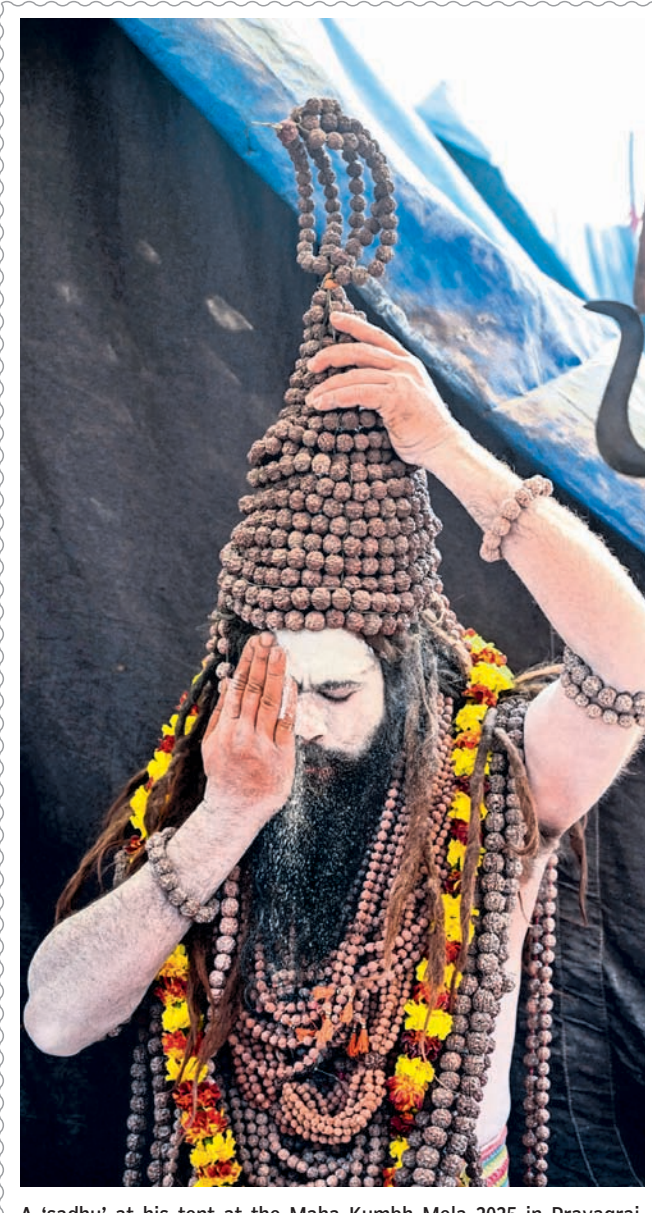
"We are trying to find out who spread the rumour and what caused the passengers to come out of the train," a railway official said.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the accident was revised to 12 after officials confirmed Thursday that a head and a torso, initially thought to belong to different individuals, were from the same person.

A state government official said that earlier the figure had been arrived at 13 as a woman's body and a head were found at the scene of the accident, but a man identified the body parts as that of his mother.

"The Government Medical College (in Jalgaon) has officially stated that the total number of dead persons is 12 as the torso and body are of the same deceased (female) identified by her son," he said. The official said all bodies have been identified and they were being handed over to their respective families.

Of those who lost their lives on the tracks, seven hailed from Nepal.



A 'sadhu' at his tent at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh  
PTI PHOTO

## of the day uote

Even though Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced ₹5,300 crore for the project in the Budget, not a single rupee has been released. This is a betrayal of the people by the Central government and BJP



The Modi government took several steps to improve the healthcare scenario in the country. India's healthcare budget rose from ₹37,000 crore in 2013-14 to ₹ 98,000 crore under the Modi government, which indicates a three-fold increase in allocation. The PM adopted a holistic approach for improving health services in the country



The news of two students committing suicide in a single day in Kota, Rajasthan is extremely scary and heart-breaking. Here five students have committed suicide within three weeks, this is very worrying



## XPOST OF THE DAY

I bought a 409 Litre Beko refrigerator at 1100 AED (approx= 25K) in Dubai. I am trying to buy a refrigerator in Goa with similar specs: it is at least 38K. That's almost 50% price upgrade. It is strange that our country considers a fridge/refrigerator as a "luxury" and taxes the hell out of it.  
@Akshat\_World

## SHORT TAKES

### Student jumps to death in AP

**Somaladoddi (Andhra Pradesh):** A 16-year-old boy jumped to death from the third floor of his junior college Thursday here in Anantapur district, said a police official. Anantapur Rural sub-divisional police officer T Venkateshulu said the boy just returned to college from Sankranti holidays Thursday morning and died by suicide at 11:55 am. "After the holidays, this boy came to the college around 9:30 am Thursday. While the class was going on, around 11:55 am, he suddenly came out from the classroom and jumped from the third floor," Venkateshulu told PTI.

### Five judges appointed

**New Delhi:** Three judicial officers and two advocates were Thursday appointed as judges in three high courts. While three judicial officers were appointed as judges of the Rajasthan HC, one advocate each was appointed as judge of the Allahabad High Court and the Bombay HC. Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the fresh appointments in a post on X.

### NDTV loan: Court accepts CBI report

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court Thursday accepted a closure report filed by the CBI in an alleged case of irregularities by ICICI Bank in accepting loan repayment from NDTV, saying "it appeared to be satisfactory". Special judge Shailender Malik accepted the closure report after going through the report, and the submissions made by the CBI, and the complainant in the case, who said he did not want to file any protest petition being satisfied with the investigation.

## After Ajit Doval, foreign secy Misri to visit China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 23: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will travel to Beijing on a two-day trip beginning Sunday to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart, in the second such high-profile visit from India to China in less than one-and-a-half months.

Last month, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval visited Beijing and held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi under the framework of Special Representatives (SR) dialogue on the boundary dispute. "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri will be visiting Beijing January 26 and 27 for a meeting of the Foreign Secretary-Vice Minister mechanism between India and China," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

"The resumption of this bilateral mechanism flows from the agreement at the leadership level to discuss the next steps for India-China relations, including in the political, economic, and people-to-people domains," it said in a brief statement. It is expected that the two sides would touch upon a number of issues at the talks including ways to deescalate the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. China has been impressing upon India to agree on resuming direct flights between the two countries and facilitate issuance of visas to Chinese citizens. The decision



to revive the SR mechanism and other such dialogue formats was taken at a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Kazan October 23. In the nearly 50-minute meeting, Modi underscored the importance of properly handling differences and disputes and not allowing them to disturb peace and tranquillity in border areas. The Modi-Xi meeting came two days after India and China firming up a disengagement pact for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

In the SR dialogue, India pressed for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the overall boundary dispute between the two countries. Doval and Wang also focused on "positive" direction for cross-border cooperation including resuming the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, river data sharing and border trade.

## MORE RIFT IN K'TAKA BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Bangalore, Jan 23:** The Karnataka BJP's internal squabbles deepened Thursday with old pals—mining baron B Janardhana Reddy and ex-minister B Sriramulu locking horns in public.

The trigger seems to be accusations against Sriramulu in the BJP core committee meeting that he was in some way responsible for the party's defeat in the Sandur by-poll, after failing to secure the party nomination for himself. He was pulled up for not doing enough to win the election.

According to sources, a section in the BJP created an impression that Sriramulu was eyeing for a BJP ticket from Sandur after losing the 2023 Assembly election and 2024 Lok Sabha poll. However, the party fielded Bangaru Hanumanth, who lost to Congress' Annapurna in the by-poll.

Following the accusations made in the core committee meeting, Sriramulu said he would prefer quitting the party.

The former MP and MLA Wednesday openly accused Janardhana Reddy, the Gangavathi MLA of "backbiting" against him to party national general secretary and Karnataka in-charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal.

Responding, Reddy sought to remind Sriramulu that it was he who made him tread on the righteous path when he was thinking of avenging his uncle's brutal murder.

## Why are MoUs being signed at Davos Summit?

AGENCIES

**New Delhi, Jan 23:** As the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu enthusiastically signed several MoUs with Indian companies in Davos during the World Economic Forum (WEF) Summit, a glaring question emerges: Why are these deals being inked on foreign soil?

The question being hotly debated on social media and in political circles is why state governments insist on sending delegations abroad to sign agreements with Indian firms, deals that could easily be finalised within India?

Many analysts argue that this is nothing more than a PR exercise. The governments appear to be not only pushing their business-friendly image, but also flaunting their ability to attract investment. If these were foreign investments, it would at least justify the MoU signing spree on foreign soil.

Netizens also criticised mega Indian deals being inked at the ongoing WEF event in Davos, with some even seeking clarification around misusing taxpayers' money.

Rajya Sabha MP Priyan-



### Have signed 61 MoUs: Fadnavis

**Mumbai:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Thursday said 61 MoUs have been signed during his visit to the World Economic Forum in Davos entailing investment of ₹15.70 lakh crore and having the potential to provide 16 lakh jobs in the state. The annual five-day meeting of the WEF is underway in Davos, Switzerland from January 20. CM Fadnavis is attending the meeting with a state delegation. Interacting with reporters via Zoom link from Davos, he said seven of these MoUs were strategic partnerships for knowledge in mobility and education and not investment. All the MoUs have 98 per cent FDI component in the field of infrastructure, green energy, electronics, IT, steel, defence, textiles, solar, biotechnology, pharma, among others, the CM added.

Rajya Sabha MP Priyan-

ka Chaturvedi posted on X that the "Maharashtra state government entourage has spent huge amounts of money to sign MoUs with Indian companies in Davos! Arrey bhai Mumbai main hi sign kar lete... oh but wait, AQI is better there." Another post by an X user called such exercises as "absolutely blatant".

"Opposition should demand and seek clarification around this Junket on Tax Payers Money!!! They are having ball of a time!!! Entire Indian entourage having Picnic in #Switzerland - Pity a common man," wrote the X user.

According to another X user, "the fact is that most of this year's MoUs again seem to be with companies based in India, and these deals could have been signed in Mumbai itself".

"In fact, I'm told that several MoUs were deliberately held back for months to inflate the investment figures showcased at Davos. No amount of PR spin can whitewash the Mahayuti's grave sin of driving crucial projects out of Maharashtra, the X post claimed.

# Maha Kumbh offers hope for differently-abled with free limbs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Mahakumbh Nagar (UP), Jan 23:** Pilgrims are flocking to Maha Kumbh to take the holy dip in Sangam but several differently-abled people have a different reason to visit Prayagraj -- free treatment and fitment of artificial limbs.

Nestled in the midst of tents of various sects and religious groups is a camp by Narayan Seva Sansthan, a Jaipur-based charitable organisation working for the differently-abled. The doctors at the camp are busy attending the 'divyang' visitors while a team is taking measurements for prosthesis or artificial limbs.

The sansthan is known for its philanthropic services in treat-

ment and rehabilitation of polio-affected people. Jaishankar Kumar from Uttar Pradesh's Balia whose both legs had to be amputated two years back following a severe infection is at the Kumbh with hope for a new lease of life.

"Life has not been the same after I lost both my legs. I walk using crutches. Doctors suggested that I can use artificial limbs but they are expensive, not something I can afford. When we got to know that they will be available for free here, I and my family decided to visit Kumbh. We will also take the dip," he told PTI.

Kumar's measurements have already been taken and his fitment will be prepared at a fabrication unit set up at the camp.



"I have been asked to wait for 10 days and the limbs will be fitted. Till then, I am taking physiotherapy, which is also being done free of cost at the



camp," he said. MahaKumbh, a mega-religious event organised every 12 years, is being held in Prayagraj from January 13 and

will continue for 45 days. More than eight crore pilgrims have so far taken a holy dip at the Sangam.

According to Krupal Chaudhary, a Prosthetic Orthopedic specialist at the camp, a team of 50 including doctors, physiotherapy specialists, prosthetics specialists, fabrication team with technicians has been deployed at the Kumbh.

Chaudhary informed that when Kumbh ends a tricycle distribution drive will also be conducted for the differently-abled.

The doctors at the camp are busy attending the 'divyang' visitors while a team is taking measurements for prosthesis or artificial limbs

"It is believed that whatever is done at the Kumbh, there is lot of religious or spiritual merit in it. This is why we see hundreds of langars and community kitchens offering free food. This is our way of contributing to the spiritual event. We are not even checking whether a person can afford the treatment or limb fitment. For us everybody is same and will get free treatment here," said Jeetu, a prosthetic technician. Special toilets at key locations for divyang, ramps at railway ticket counters and other important offices, braille signboards for visually impaired pilgrims, golf carts and e-rickshaws, are among the various measures taken by the administration for the differently-abled pilgrims.

international

If Ukraine loses then to restore the deterrence of the rest of NATO again, it will be a much, much higher price than what we are contemplating at this moment in terms of ramping up our spending and ramping up our industrial production

NEPAL HIKES MOUNT EVEREST CLIMBING FEE

Nepal has sharply increased permit fees for climbing Mount Everest by 36 per cent and also introduced a slew of measures aimed at controlling garbage pollution on the world's tallest peak, officials said.



of the day quote

In a crucial moment for Haiti's stability, Colombia reaffirms its commitment to the strengthening of democracy and the development of the region

From the very beginning, our interest was that India should get the status of most favoured nation. We used to give MFN status to Pakistan. But they did not grant the same status to us

Gangs in Haiti could overrun the capital, Port-au-Prince, leading to a complete breakdown of government authority without additional international support for the beleaguered national police

SHORT TAKES

Flights between Turkiye, Syria resume

Istanbul: Commercial flights between Turkiye and Syria resumed Thursday after 13 years with a Turkish Airlines flight from Istanbul to Damascus.

AI to resume Tel Aviv-Delhi flights

Jerusalem: With ceasefire holding up in the north and south of Israel, several major international airlines, including Air India, have announced plans to resume flights to Israel expanding connectivity to the war-torn region.

South Africans to attend Maha Kumbh

Johannesburg: Several thousand people from South Africa are expected to flock to the Maha Kumbh Mela being held at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh before it officially ends February 26.

Gaza prepares tent camps for returnees

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians expected to head back to the northern Gaza Strip will return to homes in ruins after a 15-month Israeli military offensive that has laid waste to the enclave and killed more than 47,000 Gazans



- Mass return to the north expected to start Saturday
Return to follow Hamas release of second batch of hostages
Ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect Sunday
'There is nothing left' says woman who has returned to Jabalia

stormed across the border Oct 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and taking more than 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. RETURNING ON FOOT Hamas said people would be allowed to return on foot along the coastal road, meaning a walk of several miles to the official northern area from where they could try to get rides in vehicles, which would be searched at checkpoints.

Cairo, Jan 23: Palestinians in northern Gaza prepared tent encampments for displaced families Thursday, two days before they were expected to return to their home areas in accordance with the timeline of a ceasefire deal agreed between Israel and Hamas.

On open ground surrounded by blown-out buildings, a group of men began putting up rows of white tents to receive families who are planning to return north on Saturday when the Palestinian militant group Hamas is due to release a second batch of hostages in return for dozens of Palestinians jailed by Israel.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians expected to head back to the northern Gaza Strip will return to homes in ruins after a 15-month Israeli military offensive that has laid waste to the enclave and killed more than 47,000 Gazans.

In October, Israeli forces returned to areas of the north in a major anti-Hamas operation focused on Jabalia refugee camp near Gaza City and Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya towns, clearing the area of its inhabitants and razing most of its buildings.

"Is this the tent that we dreamed of? This will have to fit 10 people. This tent is for my children coming from the south. Really, is this adequate space?" asked Wael Jundiya, as he prepared a tent for his children who will return from where they have been sheltering in the Mawasi coastal area of the south.

"People will come from the south and flood Gaza (City) Saturday, where will they go? This camp will fit 100, 200 people. There will be 1.5 million coming from the south," Jundiya told Reuters.

Israel launched its assault on Gaza after Hamas fighters

REBUILDING ASSAD'S POLICE Syria's new leaders turn to Islamic law

Damascus, Jan 23: Syria's new authorities are using Islamic teachings to train a fledgling police force, a move officers say aims to instill a sense of morality as they race to fill a security vacuum after dismantling ousted president Bashar al-Assad's notoriously corrupt and brutal security forces.



- Focus on Islamic teachings in police training raises concern among some Syrians
Police trainers say this is to instill a sense of morality in recruits
Bashar al-Assad's security forces had a reputation for corruption and brutality
New police force faces staffing constraints, aims to expand recruitment

regional analysts warn. "There are many Syrians who will find this concerning," said Aron Lund, a fellow at Century International, a Middle East-focused think tank, when asked about Reuters' findings. "Not just minorities - Christians, Alawites, Druze - but also quite a lot of Sunni Muslims in places like Damascus and Aleppo, where you have a fairly large secular, cosmopolitan population that's not interested in religious law."

risks seeding new rifts in a diverse country awash with guns after 13 years of civil war and alienating foreign governments they have been trying to woo, re-

US-MEXICO BORDER Pentagon deploys 1500 active troops

The Pentagon will provide military aircraft to support Department of Homeland Security deportation flights for more than 5,000 detained migrants and the troops will assist in the construction of barriers



Washington, Jan 23: The Pentagon Wednesday said it has begun deploying 1,500 active duty troops to help secure the southern border in the coming days, putting in motion plans US President Donald Trump laid out in executive orders shortly after he took office to crack down on immigration.

It remains to be seen if they will end up doing law enforcement, which would put American troops in a dramatically different role for the first time in decades. The active duty forces will join the roughly 2,500 US National Guard and Reserve forces already there.

Personnel started moving to the border earlier Wednesday, according to a military official briefing reporters on the condition of anonymity to provide additional details on the deployment.

The troops will include 500 Marines from Camp Pendleton in California, and the remainder will be army personnel.

Troops have done similar duties in support of Border Patrol agents in the past, when both Trump and former president Joe Biden sent active duty troops to the border.

Troops are prohibited by law from doing law enforcement duties under the Posse Comitatus Act, but that may change.

Trump has directed through executive order that the incoming secretary of defence and incoming homeland security chief report back within 90 days if they think an 1807 law called the Insurrection Act should be invoked.

That would allow the troops to be used in civilian law enforcement on US soil. The act was last invoked in 1992 during rioting in Los Angeles in protest against the acquittal of four police officers charged with beating activist Rodney King.

Thailand holds its first same-sex weddings

Thailand first in Southeast Asia to legalise same-sex marriages

shopping complexes planned big pride events to celebrate the implementation of the new law. At a mass wedding at a luxury Bangkok retail mall, more than 200 couples lined up to make their vows, some in white dresses, others in traditional Thai outfits, western suits and ceremonial police uniforms.



"It has been 17 years, we met in school and encountered many things, we hope to see more equality in the future," said Ploynaplus Chirasukon, 33, posing for photographs after receiving a marriage license with her wife Kwanporn Kongpetch.

figures from ceremonies nationwide and submit a request to Guinness World Records to recognise Thailand as holder of the world's largest number of same-sex marriage registrations in a single day.

The new same-sex marriage law will create more momentum for greater inclusion of LGBTQ people in Thailand, which has long had a reputation for its carnival-like pride events and tolerance towards the community

LGBT groups hope to reach 1,448 wedding registrations on day one, a symbolic number that refers to the section of the Thai civil code where a key amendment changed the words husband and wife to "spouse"

for all genders. It represents the dream and hope of building an inclusive society that accepts and celebrates love in all its forms," LGBT group Bangkok Pride said.

were also open for marriage registration, according to the government. "Equal marriage has truly become possible with the power of all," said former Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, who was premier when the landmark legislation passed last year.

Thais." According to legal analysts, the new same-sex marriage law will create more momentum for greater inclusion of LGBTQ people in Thailand, which has long had a reputation for its carnival-like pride events and tolerance towards the community. However, other regulations like building a legally recognised family remain a challenge for some couples.

Bangkok, Jan 23: Thailand Thursday became the first country in Southeast Asia to hold legal same-sex weddings, with LGBT groups aiming to mark the occasion with more than 1,000 marriage registrations in a single day.


After decades of campaigning by activists, Thailand is the third territory in Asia to legalise same-sex marriages after Taiwan and Nepal, with a new marriage equality law coming into effect Thursday

Thailand's parliament flew rainbow flags Thursday and

District offices nationwide and Thai embassies overseas

He marked the day as one "close to the hearts of many


Business



**I am not sure whether RBI should do anything because every other currency is depreciating against the US dollar because if it tries to elevate rupee vis-a-vis dollar, it will be essentially strengthening rupee against all other currencies and that would make it more difficult for our exporters**

RAGHURAM RAJAN | FORMER GOVERNOR, RBI

**OLA STARTS E-BIKES PRODUCTION**



Ola Electric Thursday said it has started production of its Roadster range of motorcycles at its Chennai-based plant with deliveries expected to commence in March. The Bangalore-based firm had showcased its motorcycle portfolio in August 2024. "Going by the company's latest update, Ola Electric is set to start the deliveries of its motorcycles from March 2025 onwards," it stated

of the day **quote**

**The persistent talent shortage, with 80 per cent of organisations struggling to fill roles in 2025, underscores the urgent need for collective action**



**SANDEEP GULATI | MD (INDIA AND MIDDLE EAST), MANPOWERGROUP**

**In 2025-2026, we are looking to strategically expand our capacity portfolio by acquiring key operational assets within the country and across geographies. These acquisitions will be crucial in shaping the growth trajectory of the company in the coming years**



**AMIT KUMAR MITTAL | CEO, JINDAL INDIA RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Good progress is there on India-EU FTA. There is a significant progress in talks**



**PIYUSH GOYAL | COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER**

**Q3 RESULTS**

**HPCL profit up 3-fold**

**New Delhi:** Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) Thursday reported more than tripling of its December quarter net profit as marketing margins soared. Consolidated net profit stood at ₹2,543.65 crore in October-December 2024 - the third quarter of April 2024 to March 2025 fiscal year (FY25) - compared with ₹712.84 crore earning in the same period a year back. Profit was also up quarter-on-quarter when compared with ₹142.67 crore earning in July-September 2024.

**AGEL profit up 85%**

**New Delhi:** Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) Thursday posted over 85 per cent rise in consolidated net profit to ₹474 crore for December quarter on the back of higher revenues from power supply. The company had logged a net profit of ₹256 crore in the year-ago period, according to a BSE filing. Revenue from power supply rose to ₹1,993 crore in the quarter from ₹1,765 crore in the same period year ago.

**ZEEL profit jumps 3X**

**New Delhi:** Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) Thursday reported a nearly three-fold jump in consolidated net profit at ₹163.6 crore for December quarter FY25, helped by lower expenses, specially operational costs. The company had posted a profit of ₹58.5 crore for the year-ago period, ZEEL said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review was at ₹940.6 crore as compared to ₹1,027.4 crore in the year-ago period.

**UltraTech Cement dips**

**New Delhi:** Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement Ltd Thursday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,473.51 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2024. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹1,774.78 crore in the same quarter last fiscal, UltraTech Cement said in a regulatory filing. Revenue from operations in the quarter under review stood at ₹17,193.33 crore.

**IEX net profit surges**

**New Delhi:** Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) Thursday posted a nearly 17 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹107.29 crore, mainly driven by higher revenues.

**US sanctions hit Russian oil imports**

**BPCL SEES MARCH RUSSIAN OIL INTAKE DOWN 20% AS IT AWAITS OFFERS**

**New Delhi, Jan 23:** The wide-ranging sanctions imposed by the US on the Russian oil sector have started to dent near-term oil flows to India with state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) saying not enough cargoes are available for March.

**« In 2024, Russian crude imports to India averaged 1.7 million barrels per day, making the OPEC+ producer its largest supplier**

**« Russian oil made up for 34-35% of all oil that BPCL processed at the start of the current financial year in April 2024**

The US January 10 issued sweeping sanctions targeting the Russian energy sector. The measures include sanctions on Russian oil producers Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas, the blacklisting of 183 vessels involved in Russian energy exports, and curbs on dozens of oil traders, oilfield service providers, tanker owners and managers, insurance companies and energy officials.

The sanctions were announced at a time when Indian refiners had started to negotiate for March cargoes. BPCL Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta told in



Russia made up for just 0.2% of all oil imported by India in the year ended March 31, 2022. India, however, became the second biggest buyer of Russian crude oil since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022, with purchases rising to almost 40% of the country's total oil purchases. The rise was primarily because Russian crude oil was available at a discount to other internationally traded oil due to the price cap and the European nations shunning purchases from Moscow

an analyst call Thursday that Russian oil had been booked for January and February in the previous two months but for March "we are not getting sufficient cargoes". The company saw Russian oil in the overall basket of crude oil it processes into fuels like petrol and diesel, falling to 20 per cent in the October-December quarter, he said. In 2024, Russian crude imports to India averaged 1.7 million barrels per day, making the OPEC+ producer its largest

**« There is enough oil available in the market and we will look at alternatives such as the Middle East to replace the lost volumes from Russia**

**VETSA RAMAKRISHNA | DIRECTOR (FINANCE), BPCL**

This cap, introduced to limit Moscow's revenues to fund its war in Ukraine, meant that Western shipping and insurance services were not available for any oil cargo that was priced more than \$60 per barrel.

**SHADOW FLEET**

To circumvent that, Russia used the so-called shadow fleet, insured by its own companies. This fleet has now been sanctioned. There is a wind-down period until March 12, which will allow for existing contracts to finish. "For the first two months, there will be no disruption. Within two months we will probably see new arrangements emerging in terms of oil coming to India," a senior government source said. Sanctioned Russian tankers will not be allowed to dock at Indian ports, the source said, adding that the only exception would be for Russian oil cargoes booked before January 10, provided they unload by March 12.

**Gold hits fresh all-time high of ₹82,900/10 gm**

**New Delhi, Jan 23:** Gold prices rose ₹170 to hit a fresh record high of ₹82,900 per 10 grams in the national capital Thursday amid a positive global trend, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal had closed at ₹82,730 per 10 grams Wednesday.

In about one year, the precious metal surged ₹20,180 or 32.17 per cent to ₹82,900 per 10 grams from ₹62,720 per 10 grams February 23, 2024. Extending the gains for the seventh straight session, gold of 99.5 per cent purity appreciated by ₹170 to hit an all-time high level of ₹82,500 per 10 grams. The metal had finished at ₹82,330 per 10 grams in the previous trading session.

Gold of 99.9 and 99.5 per cent purity grew ₹2,320 each in the last seven trading sessions. However, silver prices declined ₹500 to ₹93,500 per kg from the previous close of ₹94,000 per kg Wednesday. Bullion traders attributed the rise in precious metal prices to heightened demand by jewellers and retailers, along with a strong trend in the international markets. In the overseas markets, Comex gold futures fell \$13.20 per ounce or 0.48 per cent to \$2,757.70 per ounce.

**TOPSY-TURVY TRADE**

**IT stocks lead gains in indices**



TOP GAINERS	TOP LOSERS
ULTRATECH CEMENT +6.81%	POWER GRID -1.19%
ZOMATO +2.52%	KOTAK BANK -1.18%
M&M +2.03%	HCL TECH -1.06%
SUN PHARMA +2.01%	RELIANCE -1.05%
TECH MAHINDRA +1.86%	SBIN -0.97%

**Benchmarks rise for 2nd day on gains in IT, consumer durable stocks**

**Mumbai, Jan 23:** Stock markets extended gains for the second day Thursday helped by buying in IT, consumer durables and commodity stocks amid a largely positive trend in global markets.

In a volatile trade, the 30-share index rose by 115.39 points or 0.15 per cent to settle at 76,520.38. The barometer started on a negative note dropping by 202 points to a low of 76,202.12. The index pared losses later and climbed 338.55 points or 0.44 per cent to hit a high of 76,743.54. The broader NSE Nifty rose by 50 points or 0.22 per cent to end at 23,205.35. From the Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sun Pharmaceutical, Zomato, Tech Mahindra, Tata Steel, Tata Motors, Titan, ITC and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers. In contrast, Kotak Mahindra Bank, HCL Technologies, PowerGrid, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and Axis Bank were among the laggards.

**Market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies rose by ₹2,75,359.24cr to ₹4,24,63,686.80cr or \$4.91tn**

"Uncertainty lingers whether the trade tariff measures will affect global trade, instigate higher inflation, and currencies volatility. The trend holds a declining momentum YTD with a pause today contemplating the upcoming 2025 budget, which has a muted expectation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Meanwhile in-line Q3 results showcasing QoQ growth to the indices suggesting that Q4 will be much better, Nair said. In broader markets, the BSE smallcap index rose 0.67 per cent and midcap gauge jumped 1.78 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, Consumer Durables rose the most by 1.95 per cent, Commodities by 1.86 per cent, Focused IT by 1.79 per cent, Information Technology by 1.51 per cent, Services 1.42 per cent and Consumer Discretionary and Healthcare went up 1.28 per cent each. On the other hand, Energy, Bankex and Oil & Gas were the only laggards.

**Maruti Suzuki to hike prices by up to ₹32,500 from Feb**



Press Trust of India

**New Delhi, Jan 23:** Car market leader Maruti Suzuki India Thursday said it will hike prices by up to ₹32,500 across various models from February 1 to partially offset the rise in input costs.

Due to rising input costs and operational expenses, the company plans to increase car prices, starting February 1, 2025, Maruti Suzuki India said in a regulatory filing. "While the company is committed to optimising costs and reducing the impact on the customers, we are constrained to pass on some of the increased expenses to the market," it added. Under the revised prices, the company's compact car

**ChatGPT data removal will breach US legal obligations: OpenAI**

Reuters

**New Delhi, Jan 23:** OpenAI has told an Indian court that any order to remove training data powering its ChatGPT service would be inconsistent with its legal obligations in the United States, according to a recent filing seen by Reuters. The Microsoft-backed AI firm also said that it was not within the jurisdiction of Indian courts to hear a copyright breach case brought by local news agency ANI as OpenAI had no presence in the country. In the most high-profile and closely-tracked lawsuit on AI use in India, ANI sued OpenAI in Delhi in November, accusing it of using the news agency's published content without permission to train ChatGPT. OpenAI responded to the lawsuit, which is also seeking the deletion of ANI's data already stored by ChatGPT, in an 86-page



filing at the Delhi High Court dated January 10 which has not previously been reported. OpenAI and other firms have faced a wave of similar lawsuits from prominent copyright owners over alleged misuse of their work to train AI models, including a case brought by the New York Times against OpenAI in the United States. OpenAI has repeatedly denied the allegations, saying its AI systems make fair use of publicly available data. During a November hearing, OpenAI told the Delhi court it would not use ANI's content anymore but the news agency argued its published works were stored in ChatGPT's memory and should be deleted.

In the January 10 submission, OpenAI said that it is currently defending litigation in the United States concerning the data on which its models have been trained, with laws there requiring it to preserve the data while hearings are pending. OpenAI "is therefore under a legal obligation, under the laws of the United States to preserve, and not delete, the said training data", it said. OpenAI did not respond to a request for comment. In its submission, OpenAI also said the relief being claimed by ANI was not subject to the processes of Indian courts and was beyond their jurisdiction. The company has "no office or permanent establishment in

India... the servers on which (ChatGPT) stores its training data are similarly situated outside of India". ANI, in which Reuters holds a 26% interest, in a statement said that it believes the Delhi court has jurisdiction to decide on the matter, and it would file a detailed response. A Reuters spokesperson did not respond immediately to a request for comment but the agency in November said it was not involved in ANI's business practices or operations. The New Delhi court is due to hear the case on Jan. 28. OpenAI has been gearing up to transition from a non-profit enterprise into a for-profit business as it looks to capture even more funding to stay ahead in the costly AI race after raising \$6.6 billion last year. In recent months, it has signed deals with Time magazine, the Financial Times, Business Insider-owner Axel Springer, France's Le Monde and Spain's Prisa Media to display content. ANI has also said it is concerned about unfair competition given OpenAI's commercial partnerships with other news organisations, and has told the court that in response to user prompts, ChatGPT reproduced verbatim or substantially similar extracts of ANI's works. In its rebuttal submission, OpenAI argues that ANI "has sought to use verbatim extracts of its own article as a prompt, in an attempt to manipulate ChatGPT".

**ANI's lawsuit among wave of similar copyright cases against OpenAI**

**ChatGPT service becoming increasingly popular in India**

**OpenAI says US law requires data preservation during litigation**

**Indian court due to hear the case January 28**

